

CITY 2
UP MAKES CHANGES IN
BRITISH ERA JAIL MANUAL

OPINION 6
NEW PANCHSHEEL
FOR INDIA @ 75

WORLD 10
CHINA SANCTIONS SEVEN TOP
TAIWANESE OFFICIALS

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY AUGUST 17, 2022; PAGES 12 ₹3



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



**MURRAY BEATS
WAWRINKA IN
CINCINNATI**
11 SPORT

Chinks in Nitish armour! 5 MLAs, Kushwaha absent

7 Yadavs, 6 upper castes, 5 Muslims, and 5 Dalits take oath of office

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■
PATNA/NEW DELHI

On a day when the new Mahagathbandhan Cabinet led by Nitish Kumar took oath in Patna, chinks were visible in the Janata Dal (United) with its Parliamentary Board Chairman Upendra Kushwaha "skipping" the oath ceremony. Thirty one Ministers from the alliance partners RJD, JD(U), Congress took oath of office and secrecy on Tuesday. There are seven Yadav Ministers, five Muslims and six upper castes and five Dalits. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar kept the crucial Home Department with himself and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav has taken charge of the Health Department in the first Cabinet expansion of the newly formed Mahagathbandhan Government.

Kushwaha, a former Union Minister in the Modi Government, had merged his RLS party last year in March, chose to express his "disappointment" on not being given a responsibility in the new setup by flying to Maharashtra with his family. Kushwaha



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, HAM-S Chief Jitan Ram Manjhi and RJD leader Rabri Devi during the swearing-in ceremony of Bihar Cabinet Ministers at Raj Bhavan in Patna on Tuesday. PTI

extended his congratulatory message to the new Bihar Ministers through social media, but sources said that all was not well within the JD(U).

At least five JD(U) MLAs didn't attend the swearing-in ceremony at Raj Bhavan. They were reportedly unhappy over being denied a cabinet berth. The MLAs are: Dr Sanjeev Kumar, Pankaj Kumar Mishra, Sudarshan Kumar, Raj Kumar Singh and Shalini Mishra.

Sources said several leaders of Kushwaha caste held a meeting in a hotel in Patna on August 12 night and later conveyed to Kumar against Kushwaha's induction. However, those familiar with the functioning Kumar would vow that he is not likely to succumb to such pressure unless there is some other hidden agenda.

"Congratulations to all the new Ministers inducted under

the Kumar. But be cautious as you are not only watched in Bihar but will be by the entire nation as the job is not finished just here," Kushwaha tweeted. The JD(U) downplayed his absence in the ceremony and said he was outstation on an earlier scheduled programme. Sources said the party may consider giving Kushwaha some important role for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Continued on Page 9

7 jawans dead as bus plunges into 250-ft gorge in Pahalgam

9 critical; 37 ITBP jawans and 2 J&K cops were returning from Amarnath duty

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
SRINAGAR

At least seven jawans of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) were killed while nine critically injured after their vehicle plunged into a 250 feet gorge near Frislan in Pahalgam early Tuesday morning. The injured were airlifted to Army's command hospital in Srinagar.

As many as 41 people, including 37 jawans of 4th and 5th battalions of ITBP, were returning from Amarnath yatra duty, along with two J&K cops and two bus staffers at the time of the accident which took place around 9.40 am.

Official sources said the bus bearing registration no JK03A 3296 of IRP 3rd Battalion skidded off the road, 6 kms short of Pahalgam, and plunged down 250 feet. The bus ended up in the Nallah. Soon after the incident was reported several rescue teams were rushed to the spot to ferry the injured to the nearby hospital.

Initially, nine critically injured jawans were airlifted to the command hospital in Srinagar while others received treatment in the GMC, Anantnag. Later, all others were shifted to the command



Rescue work underway after a bus carrying 39 personnel skidded off a road down to riverbed, near Chandanwari, in Anantnag district of J&K on Tuesday. PTI

hospital via helicopters to provide better treatment facilities.

DG ITBP has expressed his condolences to the families of the jawans who died in the tragic accident.

All possible assistance is being provided to the injured, ITBP spokesman said.

Later, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha visited

Army Hospital Srinagar and enquired about the well-being of ITBP personnel injured in a tragic road accident near Chandanwari.

Lt General Amardeep Singh Ajula, GOC 15 Corps was also present.

The Lt Governor expressed grief over the loss of lives of the ITBP personnel in the unfortunate incident and extended

his condolences to the members of bereaved families.

"Deeply anguished by the bus accident near Chandanwari in which we have lost our brave ITBP personnel. My condolences to the bereaved families and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured. All possible assistance is being provided to the injured personnel," said the Lt Governor.

Chinese 'spy ship' docks, Lankan Prez tries to allay India's fears

After India's concerns, some Lankan MPs too objected to Chinese 'spy ship' arrival at Lanka's Hambantota port

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE /
AGENCIES ■
NEW DELHI/COLOMBO

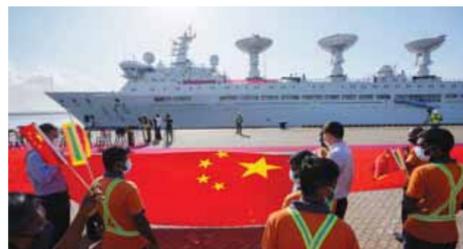
Amid concerns in India, a Chinese "spy ship" docked at a Sri Lankan port on Tuesday. Some Lankan Parliamentarians there objected to the arrival of the research ship, but the Chinese envoy to Colombo termed the visit as "very natural".

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe tried to allay India's fears and said China will not be allowed to use the facil-

ity for "military purposes". Making this assertion, he told a foreign newspaper on Sunday. "The present ship did not come under the category of military. It came under the category of a research ship. That is how we permitted the ship to come to Hambantota."

China on Tuesday said the activities of its high-tech research vessel will not affect the security of any country and should not be "obstructed" by any "third party," as the ship berthed at Sri Lanka's southern port of Hambantota amid Indian and US concerns.

The ship reached the Hambantota deep water port in southern part of the country, about 250 km from Colombo, at 8.20 am local time and will leave for onward journey on August 22 after replenishments.



Sri Lankan port workers hold a Chinese national flag to welcome Chinese research ship Yuan Wang 5 as it arrives in Hambantota International Port in Hambantota, Sri Lanka, on Tuesday. PTI

India is wary of the capabilities of the ship Yuan Wang 5 as it can track ballistic missiles and satellites, thereby snooping on Indian military installations.

Notwithstanding these

apprehensions, India on Monday gifted a Dornier aircraft to enhance the surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities of the Sri Lankan air force and navy.

Continued on Page 9

India's first night safari to come up in Lucknow

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

India's first nocturnal zoo will be set up in Kukrail forest area as the Yogi Adityanath government has decided to set up a night safari and biodiversity park on the lines of Singapore in the state capital. There are 13 day safaris in the country but no night safari.

The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held on Tuesday at Lok Bhawan under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Minister of Tourism and Culture Jaiveer Singh said the night safari would be developed in 350 acres in the Kukrail forest area, spread over 2027.46 hectares. The zoological park will be set up in 150 acres.

"Train and jeep rides with local guides will also be provided at the night safari. Apart from this, facilities like canopy walk, camping activity, moun-

tain bike track, wall climbing, tree-top restaurant, nature trail and food court will also be developed," the minister said.

Singh said there are plans to make a leopard safari in 75 acres of land, bear safari in 60 acres area and tiger safari in 75 acres. The animals will not be kept in a cage but will roam free as they do in the wild.

"It will be an open-air nocturnal zoo which will be open only at night. A modern theme park will be built for tourists during the day. In setting up the zoological park and night safari, only open areas which are not currently in use will be used without impacting the existing flora and fauna. The Kukrail forest area will be connected to the outside world with four-lane roads so that there is no inconvenience to the tourists," the tourism minister said.

Also See Page 2



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, flanked by Deputy Chief Ministers Brijesh Pathak and Keshav Maurya, and other senior leaders paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his fourth death anniversary function at the Lok Bhawan in Lucknow on Tuesday.

CAPSULE

NEED TO EXAMINE DYING DECLARATION TRUE: SC

New Delhi: A dying declaration can be the sole basis for recording a conviction and a court is required to examine whether it is true and reliable, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday.

₹1.026 CRORE DRUG HAUL IN ANKLESHWAR

Mumbai: The Anti-Narcotics Cell of the Mumbai Police's crime branch on Tuesday busted a synthetic drug factory at Ankleshwar in adjoining Gujarat and seized 513 kg of Mephedrone worth ₹1,026 crore and arrested one person.

3 COVID DEATHS, 19.2% POSITIVITY IN DELHI

New Delhi: Delhi on Tuesday reported 917 Covid-19 cases with a positivity rate of 19.20 per cent and three deaths due to the infection, according to data shared by the city health department. Delhi on Thursday reported 2,726 fresh cases, the highest in nearly six-and-a-half months, and six fatalities due to the viral disease, while the positivity rate at 14.38 per cent.

Terror hits Kashmiri Pandits again; 1 killed, another hurt

MOHIT KANDHARI ■
SRINAGAR

A 45-year-old Kashmiri Pandit identified as Sunil Kumar Bhat was shot dead in cold blood by "unidentified" terrorists while his brother Pintu Kumar received critical gunshot injuries inside their apple orchard in the South Kashmir district of Shopian on Tuesday.

The duo were working in the orchard located close to their homes when they were targeted. Sunil Bhat, the sole earning member of the family, is survived by four daughters, wife and an elder brother.

The attack comes close on the heels of the culmination of successful Har Ghar Tiranga campaign across Kashmir.

According to police, "Terrorists fired upon civilians in an apple orchard in Chotipora area of Shopian on Tuesday. One person died and one was injured. Both were



Pintu Kumar, a Kashmiri Pandit shot at by terrorists, being treated at a hospital, in Shopian on Tuesday. His brother Sunil Kumar died in the terror attack. PTI

members of the minority community living in the Kashmir valley. Injured person has been shifted to hospital."

In a similar attack which took place in the first week of

April 2022, a close relative of Sunil Bhat was targeted by two motorcycle-borne terrorists inside his chemist shop in Shopian.

Continued on Page 9

Talaq-e-Hasan not akin to triple talaq, women also have option of khula: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the practice of divorce in Muslims through Talaq-e-Hasan — which is pronounced once a month over a period of three months — is not akin to triple talaq and the women also have an option of "khula". In Islam, a man can take "talaq", while a woman can part ways with her husband through "khula".

A bench of Justices SK Kaul and MM Sundresh said if husband and wife cannot live together, it can also grant divorce on the ground of irretrievable breakdown under Article 142 of the Constitution.

The top court was hearing a plea seeking to declare Talaq-e-Hasan and all other forms of "unilateral extra-judicial talaq as void and unconstitutional", claiming they were "arbitrary, irrational, and violated fundamental rights".



"This is not triple talaq in that sense. Marriage being contractual in nature, you also have an option of khula. If two people cannot live together, we are also granting divorce on grounds of irretrievable breakdown of marriage. Are you open to divorce by mutual consent if 'mehar' (gift given in cash or kind by groom to bride) is taken care of? Prima facie, I don't agree with petitioners. I don't want this to become an agenda for any other reason," the bench observed.

Continued on Page 9

FIFA suspends India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

World football governing body FIFA on Tuesday suspended All India Football Federation (AIFF) for "undue influence from third parties" and "flagrant violations of the FIFA Statutes".

With this suspension, the U-17 Women's World Cup cannot be held in India as planned from October 11-30.

This is the first time the FIFA has banned AIFF in its 85 years history. A ban on India has been on the cards since the Supreme Court removed Prful Patel as AIFF president on May 18 for not holding elec-

tions, due in December 2020.

Alarmed by the development, the Centre on Tuesday sought urgent hearing in the Supreme Court on the matter.

"The Bureau of the FIFA Council has unanimously decided to suspend the All India Football Federation with immediate effect due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes," the FIFA said in a statement.

The Bureau of the FIFA Council said the lifting of the suspension will be subject to repealing of the Committee of Administrators' (CoA) mandate in full.

Continued on Page 9

UP cabinet nod to setting up of tourism board

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh cabinet has approved the constitution and regulation of Uttar Pradesh Eco-Tourism Development Board. The composition of the board will consist of the Eco-Tourism Development Board and the Eco-Tourism Executive Committee. The headquarters of the board will be in Lucknow. The chief minister will be the chairman of the board. The executive committee will be responsible for the necessary action to fulfill the objectives of the Eco-Tourism Development Board.

"This board will ensure adventure tourism activities, including trekking, hiking, cycling, river cruise, and jungle camping," a government spokesman said.

Uttar Pradesh has a forest area of about 16,582 sq km having one national park, and 26 wildlife sanctuaries, 12 of which are bird sanctuaries. Apart from this, the state has nine eco-tourism circuits.

Meanwhile, with an aim to attract more investments in the defence sector, the state government has amended the Uttar Pradesh Defence and Aerospace Unit and Employment Promotion Policy-2018.

"Due to the radical change in the industrial investment climate and qualitative improvement in the infrastructure facilities, now some huge investment proposals are being received in the state. The investors are now demanding more incentives than permissible in the present policy. In view of this, amendments are being suggested in Uttar Pradesh Defence and Aerospace Unit and Employment Promotion Policy-2018," ACS, Home, Awasthi said.

UP makes changes in British era jail manual

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On the directions of the Centre, Uttar Pradesh has made several changes in the British time jail manual. The Yogi Adityanath cabinet approved the changes on Tuesday. Now, the prisoners will be able to avail of several facilities at a cost.

Prisoners get their beard done at their own expense but now this system will be made available for all the jail authorities and use-and-throw razors will be available for shaving.

Notorious criminals will now be kept in Lucknow, Lalitpur, Noida and Azamgarh jails. Apart from this, new weapons will be arranged in place of the old ones. Instead of rifles, many modern equipment, including pistol, INSAS rifles, will be available.

The uniform prison manual will be applicable to all the states. The system of lock-up will end now and 'kala pani' is also being abolished.

There will be four categories based on the number of prisoners in the jail. Children born in jail will be named and taught in jail. With this, women will now be allowed to wear mangalsutra. Along with this, they can also wear salwar-suits.

The barracks will be divided into categories. Category A prisons will be

He said specialised defence packaging is an important area for the defence industry and the policy has been amended to include these sectors.

"The state will participate in the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme of the

spacious to have 2,000 inmates. Category B will have 2,000 to 1,500 prisoners, Category C 1,500 to 1,000 and in Category D less than 1,000.

The cabinet has also given approval for regular vaccination, naming and other arrangements for children born in prison. Bakery will also be arranged for self-reliance of the prisoners.

High-security prisons will be set up for notorious prisoners. Nutritious food will be given to pregnant women while there will be an arrangement of teachers for the education of children in jail. Teabiscuits will also be available in the evening and special arrangements will be made at the time of festivals.

Dates will be given to Muslims on festivals and jaggery will be given to Hindus. Kheer and vermicelli will also be distributed.

For cooking, refined oil instead of mustard oil will be available. Tooth paste and tooth powder will be given to prisoners.

A separate prison will be built for European prisoners. The system of liberation and transfer of prisoners of Nepal, Bhutan, Kashmir and Sikkim was also abolished. A 4-member committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of the DM to organise prison reform programmes.

Government of India and for this, by amending the existing policy, land will be given in the nodes of Defence Industrial Corridor and financial assistance will also be provided as per the plan for its establishment," he said.

FCI, ALIGARH TO SIHM

In another decision, the cabinet has approved the proposal for upgradation of Food Craft Institute, Aligarh (FCI) to State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM). After upgrading, the grant will be given by the state government in respect of salary and allowances for the operation of the institute. According to the standards of catering technology, approval has been given to create a total of 71 posts by merging 19 posts currently approved for FCI, Aligarh.

AREA EXTENDED

The cabinet has also approved the proposal to issue final notification regarding the formation of Nagar Panchayat Mandhata Bazar in Pratapgarh. The proposal regarding extension of the boundary of the Municipal Council Mungra Badshapur, Jaunpur has also been approved.

MERGER

Considering the proposal passed by the Board of Directors of Jawaharpur Vidut Utpadan Nigam Limited, Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidut Utpadan Nigam Limited and Uttar Pradesh Jal Vidut Nigam Limited, the cabinet approved the proposal for merger of the three corporations. The cabinet has also authorised the managing director of Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidut Utpadan Nigam Limited to take action regarding the implementation of this merger scheme.

For the construction of residential/non-residential building of Rampur's fire station, the cabinet has approved the proposal to transfer 7,500 sq meter land in Hazratpur village to the Fire department. The Home department has already approved the proposal.

Five cops awarded CM's police medal

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

On the occasion of 76th Independence Day, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath awarded five police personnel, including IPS officer Prabhakar Chaudhary, with the Chief Minister's police medal for their outstanding commitment and selfless public service.

Those honoured by the chief minister include Prabhakar Chaudhary, Additional SP Vinay Chandra, Inspector Ravindra Pratap Singh, Inspector Dinesh Kumar Dandiya and Inspector Manu Chaudhary.

Congratulating the policemen, Yogi said they have been rewarded for their hard work, excellent service and unwavering devotion and commitment to the people of the state.

"All of you represent the glorious tradition of service, dedication and discipline of the Uttar Pradesh Police," the chief minister said. Prabhakar Chaudhary, is currently the senior superintendent of police of Agra. Additional SP Vinay Chandra is posted at the Intelligence Headquarters in Lucknow while Ravindra Pratap Singh as the inspector in Moradabad while Dinesh Kumar Dandiya is an inspector in the Intelligence department in Lakhimpur Kheri. Manu Chaudhary is posted as an inspector in Hapur.



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paying floral tribute to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his fourth death anniversary on Tuesday

Yogi a hit on social media

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was a massive hit on social media on the occasion of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence as his greetings evoked overwhelming response from people on Monday.

On Twitter alone, CM Yogi's congratulatory messages received more than 1.5 lakh likes and more than 22,000 retweets. Similarly, his messages on Facebook received lakhs of likes and thousands of comments and shares.

Soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address on the 75th anniversary of independence on Monday, Yogi Adityanath posted 12 to 14 tweets, one after another, in quick

succession. Through his tweets, the CM praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ninth address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort and also sent his greetings to people.

Yogi has 2.12 crore followers on Twitter, 72 lakh on Facebook, 37 lakh on Instagram and 43 lakh on Koo.

On an average, the UP chief minister has tweeted 15-16 times daily between August 1 and 15. The tweets were posted mainly to congratulate the winners of the Commonwealth Games. Besides, Yogi took to social media to apprise people of the government's schemes as well as his own programmes apart from having dialogues with them on special occasions.

B'khand to play pivotal role in UP's development: Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Reaffirming his commitment to transform the Bundelkhand region into a prosperous land, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on the occasion of 76th Independence Day, said the region which remained neglected for decades would now play a pivotal role in the state's development.

Referring to the preparations for the 'New Green Revolution' in the state, the chief minister also announced the action plan for promotion of organic farming in the region. He said the Centre and state government are working decidedly on an

action plan to encourage organic farming in 27 districts of the state as well as seven more districts of Bundelkhand.

On the special occasion, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also highlighted the efforts being made for the development of Bundelkhand and mentioned the possibilities of tourism in the region.

Furthermore, he said that the decades-long pending irrigation projects were also completed and implemented in a time-bound manner to resolve the problem of water scarcity in the region. Besides, the work being done under the ambitious 'Har Ghar Naal' scheme is also producing desired results.

The chief minister also elaborated on his vision of turning Bundelkhand into a popular tourist destination by revamping the ancient forts of the region.

A special action plan has been prepared to develop the eight forts of Jhansi, four of Banda, two of Jalaun, seven of Lalitpur, three of Hamirpur, five of Mahoba and two of Chitrakoot that are of historical and cultural importance. In addition, the Bundelkhand Expressway will ensure socio-economic development of the area as well as the two important nodes of the Defence Corridor — Jhansi and Chitrakoot — will also serve in making the region prosperous.

Rs 107 crore released for Ram Janmabhoomi Corridor

Lucknow (PNS): Efforts have begun to start the construction of Ram Janmabhoomi Corridor by widening the roads and a sum of Rs 107 crore has been released for the purpose.

"Once the corridor is constructed, it will add to the beauty of the area. For this, a sum of Rs 107 crore has been released

while instructions have been given to PWD to complete the work within the stipulated time frame," a government spokesman said here on Tuesday. The total budget for the construction of three roads that will form the corridor is Rs 899.90 crore.

Additional Chief Secretary,

Religious Endowment, Awasthi said that a sum of Rs 3.98 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of 0.566-km Sahadatganj-Naya Ghat (4-lane) road. "A total amount of Rs 39.43 crore has been sanctioned for this, out of which Rs 3.90 crore has been released," he said in a statement.

"Apart from this, funds have been made available for the construction of a road from Faizabad-Ayodhya main road to Janmabhoomi via Hanuman Garhi. The government has earmarked Rs 62.78 crore for purchase of land and rehabilitation of people. For this, a sum of Rs 3.10 crore has been

released initially," he added. Awasthi said that the DM would be responsible to ensure the quality of work. PWD should work under the directives of the DM, he said. Instructions have also been given to complete all the construction works within the stipulated time frame, he added.

Bahujan Bharat condemns Jalore incident

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Social organisation Bahujan Bharat president and former IAS Kunwar Fateh Bahadur has condemned the incident in which a Dalit student was beaten to death by a teacher in Jalore (Rajasthan). He said it was a horrifying incident and a black spot in India's democracy. In a meeting held at the organisation's headquarters here on Tuesday, Bahadur said: "If such an incident happens even after 75 years of independence, it shows that the mindset of people has not changed. People should feel ashamed and ponder as to why such incidents are happening. Arrangements have been made in the Constitution of India to reserve seats for SC/ST in state assemblies and parliament so that the voice of the deprived section can be heard, but it is unfortunate that the elected representatives have failed to deliver." Singh said Kanshi Ram had formed the BSP only to provide Dalits and backwards their constitutional rights, but the current leadership of the party has become spineless.

History-sheeter shot outside court in Hapur, constable hurt

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A history-sheeter from Haryana was shot dead by three people and a police constable injured in the incident here outside the district and sessions court on Tuesday, an official said. Injured constable Omprakash belonged to the Haryana Police.

A spokesman of the Hapur police said the Kotwali Nagar police station SHO and the incharge of the police outpost at the court have been suspended. A senior police official said the circle officer (city) has been attached to the district police headquarters in Hapur.

Lakhan, alias Yashpal (35), was brought from Haryana's Faridabad jail in connection with a case registered against him at the Dhaulana police station in Hapur, Circle Officer (City) S N Vaibhav Pandey had earlier said. Lakhan is a history-sheeter from Haryana and had a number of cases registered against him, he said.

"The firing took place 25 to 30 metres outside the gate of the district and sessions court,"

Pandey added. The officer said the shooters will be identified soon and the CCTV footage of the incident is being examined. "The Hapur Police were not informed about the movement of the undertrial from Faridabad to Hapur. Major flaw is on the part of the Haryana Police and they should have informed the UP Police," another senior police official said. Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police Deepak Bhuker said the shooters went to a motorcycle parked in the nearby Raghuvveerganj locality and then fled from there.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident in Ballia, a woman was murdered with a sword by a man for allegedly insulting and slapping him. The incident took place on Sunday night and the accused, Dilshad Ali Sonu, surrendered before the Kotwali police. SP, Ballia, Raj Karan Nayar said: "Dilshad Ali, a native of Baheri area under the limits of Kotwali police station, went to his neighbouring house where Armana lived and attacked her with a sharp-edged weapon over some personal dispute."

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

Notify that I have changed my name from Alim Khan Salim Khan to Mohd. Aleem Khan for all purposes. Mohd. Aleem Khan S/o Mohd. Saleem Khan Naya Gaon Purab, Aminabad Park, Lucknow.

NOTICE

I have severed relationship from my nephew Abu Fazal Ahmad (Golu) and his wife Sabla Ahmad due to their misbehaviour. I shall not be responsible for any of their acts. Sabiha Ahmad D/o Late Nasiruddin Ahmad R/o 16/17, Civil Lines, Kanpur.

NOTICE

I Army No. 14427092 L Rank Hav. RAM SINGH unit 315 Fd. Regt. (Kargil) C/o 56 APO, Hereby declare that in my service records my wife SUSHILA DOB wrongly mentioned as 25/03/1978 while her correct DOB is 01/01/1978 for all work, read and written in future.

NOTICE

Be it known to all that earlier name of my son was wrongly mentioned as ISH VASUDEVA in his Aadhar Card while his correct name is SHREE VASUDEVA for all future purposes. Ravi Vasudeva F/o - Shree Vasudeva 8-Ashok Nagar, Allahabad.

Family in Bijnor gets beheading threat

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Panic prevailed in Bijnor after a family was threatened with beheading for distributing flags on the occasion of 76th Independence Day. Senior officers took cognisance of the matter and formed a team to lay a trap on the accused.

Reports said that on Monday (August 15), a handwritten death threat note was found pasted outside an

Anganwadi worker's house in Buddhu Pad, Bijnor. The note read, "Annu, you seem happy to be distributing tiranga to every house. Now you must be beheaded." It was signed as 'Friends of ISI'. The note was found pasted outside Arun Kashyap alias Annu Kashyap's house by his son.

Arun is a confectioner while his wife Shashi an Anganwadi worker. The couple has two sons and a daughter. They distributed the tricolour

under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' on Saturday. In a statement, Arun said, "My son found the note. I immediately called police. I am scared of going out of the house. My son works in a school in Bijnor. He is also asking if he should go to work or not. My wife is an Anganwadi worker and we distributed flags in our colony as well." A case was registered against an unidentified accused. Similar notes were pasted on several shops near

Arun's house. There was a handcart and a tea stall outside Arun's house on which the notes were pasted.

Following the threat letter issued allegedly by Pakistan's ISI, Arun has been provided security. Two police personnel have been deployed outside his house. SP (City) Dr Praveen Ranjan said a case has been registered and security provided to the victim. The police were also checking CCTV footage.

UP govt recasting MSME policy to encourage women entrepreneurs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To encourage women entrepreneurs in micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), the state government is recasting its policy for the sector. Under the proposed new policy, women entrepreneurs will receive a 100 per cent stamp duty subsidy on the purchase of land for setting up micro and small units. Besides, other MSMEs will receive a 50-100 per cent subsidy depending on the region of the state.

Stamp duty will be far less in comparatively backward regions of Bundelkhand and Purvanchal (eastern UP) than in the central and western districts. This is aimed at encouraging fresh investment, particularly in the manufacturing sector, in lag-gard pockets and beyond the National Capital Region (NCR) districts of western UP. The Yogi Adityanath government has started preparing for a Mega Investors Summit in January, 2023. It has also roped in global consultancy major Deloitte to draft the blueprint for making the state a US 1-trillion economy in the next five years.

"We are in the process of updating our MSME policy to make it more attractive

for private investment," Additional Chief Secretary, MSME and Export Promotion, Navneet Sehgal said. The state will offer a 100 per cent stamp duty rebate in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal, while central UP and western UP regions (excluding Noida and Ghaziabad) will get a 75 per cent subsidy. The state government is expected to provide a 50 per cent stamp duty subsidy in the districts of Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida) and Ghaziabad.

Apart from the stamp duty waivers, the state will offer capital subsidies to woo the private sector. For example, the MSME in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal will receive capital subsidies in the range of 15 to 25 per cent. The respective capital subsidies in central and western UP will be capped at 10 to 20 per cent. Meanwhile, the state will facilitate cheaper working capital loans for the sector from commercial banks and financial institutions. The state will offer up to 6 per cent interest subsidy on working capital loans, especially in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal districts. Under the Yogi Adityanath's regime, about 10 million MSME entrepreneurs availed of loans worth more than Rs 2.5 lakh crore between 2017 and 2022.

Three friends clicking selfies on track mowed down by train

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Three friends were mowed down by a train when they were clicking selfies on a railway track on the occasion of Independence Day. The incident occurred about one km away from Gurugram station in Bijnor on Monday evening. Police registered a case and sent the bodies for autopsy.

As per reports, three youths returning from work stopped on the railway track, about one kilometer away from Gurugram railway station on Monday evening. The trio were clicking selfies with the tricolour when they were run over by a train. The deceased were identified as Faizan (22) & Adil (23) of Mirzapur village in Nehtaur area and Saud of Musepur village.

Meanwhile, four people, including a retired sub-inspector, died while five others were injured after a truck ploughed into a house in Mainpuri district. The police said one person was still stuck under the debris and the rescue operation was underway.

The incident occurred near Khirria Peepal village on GT Road when the truck driver lost control of the vehicle.

भारतीय स्टेट बैंक State Bank of India		POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)		Branch- Sandila Distt. Hardoi
Whereas, [Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002]				
The under signed being the authorised officer of the State Bank of India Sandila Branch, Distt. Hardoi U.P. under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (No. 3 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notices, Calling upon the respective borrowers to repay the amount as mentioned in notice been loan amount plus interest and other expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to borrowers, guarantors and the public in general that the under signed has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said act read rule under 8 of the said rules, on the date mentioned. The Borrower/Guarantor in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with property will be subject to charge of the State Bank of India Sandila Branch, Distt. Hardoi U.P. for an amount and interest and other charges thereon mentioned against each account here in below.				
Sl. No.	Name of Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Mortgaged Property and Boundary	Over due Amount	
1	M/s Bharat Kachary Udyog, Proprietor : Smt. Tabarasm Ansari, Ashraf Tola Sandila, Distt. Hardoi-241204 Details of Documents : Book No. 1, Khand No. 2086, Page No. 335-352, Serial No. 3774, Dated 27-06-2007 in Survey No./Kasara No. within the Registered Sub-District Sandila and Distt. Hardoi.	Property consisting of Flat/Plot No.. Residential building situated at Ashraf Tola Sandila, Distt. Hardoi. Boundaries : East: House of Mohd. Iqbal Ansari, West: Plot of Trilochan Singh, North: Way, South: Sahana	Rs. 4,51,564.35 + Interest + Other Charges Date of Notice 02.05.2022 Possession Date : 11.08.2022	
Date: 16.08.2022		Authorised Officer, State Bank of India, Branch Sandila, Distt. Hardoi		

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

CM Yogi reiterates \$1-trillion economy resolve on I-Day

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh has been able to double its economy in the Covid-19 period and the state government is working towards making the state a \$1-trillion economy in the next five years under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said while speaking at the Independence Day celebrations organised in front of Vidhan Bhawan on Monday.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a mantra to the country — 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas'. The state government has returned to power earlier this year after completing five years. It was for the first time in the history of Uttar Pradesh that a chief minister was elected for the second time after completing his tenure. This is a new Uttar Pradesh which is proud of its heritage of Kumbh, Kashi Vishwanath, Ayodhya, forts of Bundelkhand and Braj Bhoomi which are being developed," the chief minister said.

Yogi said that to make UP a \$1-trillion economy, they have started focusing on ten sectors. "The main basis will be agriculture and though we have attained self-dependence, we will be working further for farmers for whom several programmes are being run by the



Central government. We have already sent an amount of Rs 3.5 lakh into the accounts of the farmers," he said.

He claimed that in a period of five years, over 2 crore people got private toilets, 33 lakh people got own houses, 1.5 crore people got electricity connections, 15 crore people got free ration during the pandemic, 10 crore people were covered under health insurance, and 1.7 crore people were provided gas connections. "With good law and order secure atmosphere, UP has emerged as a dream destination of investors. With the organised way of the state government working in the area of ease of doing business, UP has

been ranked number 2. In the five years, the state's GDP has been doubled and now we are working towards the prime minister's dream of making the country a \$5-trillion economy," he said.

"UP has immense opportunities and diversity and we should carry this forward with a better coordination between nature and development. We are focusing on organic farming in 27 districts, including Bundelkhand, and we are working with the aim that the farmers production increases by four times. 'Gauvansh' will play a major role in this. Ten lakh cows are being protected and the state government will bring green revolution through

them," he said.

He added that they are also increasing the investment in UP and encouraging the export through ODP.

He said that the state government has decided to hold the Investment Summit in January 2023 and get an investment of Rs 10 crore. He further said that connectivity has been improved in the state which is now known for its expressways. "Interstate connectivity has increased and this work is being done on a war-footing. Five cities are connected with metro and nine airports are already working while five are in the pipeline. UP will be the only state with five international airports," he added.

Paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and other heroes and freedom fighters, he said: "Prime Minister Narendra Modi made efforts to connect the common man to the Independence Day celebrations through 'Har Ghar Tiranga' and commemoration of partition horrors."

Welcoming the freedom fighters and Padma awardees, Yogi said: "Entire country fought the pandemic and while everyone wondered what would happen to UP, I was confident that people of the state would give their full support to the double-engine government."

Two groups taking out tricolour march clash, resort to stone-pelting

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A man suffered injuries while several vehicles and a jewellery shop were damaged when two groups had a clash during a tricolour march and resorted to stone-pelting in Bangla Bazaar under Ashiyana police station area on Monday afternoon.

Ironically, the group had come face to face on several occasions in the past. A company of PAC was deployed in the area to avert any further clash. Four people were arrested in connection with the case.

DCP (East) Prachi Singh said the police registered a case against the accused under sections 147/148/149 and also booked them under the 7 Criminal Law Amendment Act. One of the groups, led by jailed miscreant Sonu Rawat, is known as the gang of 1000. The police registered the case on the complaint of Ayush Yadav, who is said to be the leader of the rival group. SHO, Ashiyana, Dharmendra Yadav said the police also arrested Dilip Pathak, who was said to be the chief conspirator.

The DCP said one of the groups was taking out the procession from Qila crossing to Telibagh while another from Telibagh to Qila crossing. When they crossed path near Bangla Bazaar police outpost, they resorted to sloganeering and mouthed expletives. Four two-wheelers, two four-wheelers, and a jewellery store were damaged in the stone-pelting.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Piyush Mordia said huge police force was deployed and the situation was brought under control. He said the clash was a fallout of a long-standing rivalry. Jeweller Vishal Gupta told mediapersons that a group of youths started hurling stones in which his shop and a few vehicles parked there were damaged.

Meanwhile, a 38-year-old man, identified as Sant Kumar of Gosainganj, was found dead under mysterious circumstances on Monday afternoon. The body was found in a drain with the head immersed in it. Police sent the body for autopsy and started further investigation into the case.

Bizman abducted by three, deprived of crypto currency

Lucknow (PNS):

Three men abducted a businessman on the pretext of showing him a plot in Barabanki and thrashed him. They later got all his crypto currency transferred into their accounts. The stunning fact surfaced a week after the police arrested three of the accused involved in the case. Those arrested were identified as Sandeep Pratap Singh and Vijay Pratap Singh aka Vishnu (both of Barabanki) and Rajveer Singh of Hardoi. Police recovered Rs 30,000 in cash, a country-made pistol, three live cartridges, five mobile phones and a car. Sandeep was presently staying in Aliganj while Rajveer in Saraswati in PGI police station area. Pretending to be property dealers, they contacted Arjun Bhargav of Indraprasth Grand near Kalindi Park in Vrindavan Yojana under PGI

police station area on August 7 night. They called Bhargav on the pretext of showing them a plot in Barabanki. On the way, they tied his hands and legs and took him to a house in Barabanki where they subjected him to torture. His wife stated in the FIR that the abductors held Bhargav at the gun-point and forced him to transfer his crypto currency into their accounts.

"They also forced my husband to transfer the money to their bank accounts and opened fire when he refused. Luckily, the bullet missed the target. They then dumped him on the roadside in Lucknow. When he was spotted first by a passerby, he was blindfolded. However, the passerby helped him reach home," she said. Police said they were tipped off about the accused by an informer. On Tuesday, they were nabbed.

'Burji' of Bada Imambara collapses amid rains

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A 'burji' (parapet) at the east-end corner of the historic Asafi Imambara collapsed during a strong spell of showers on Monday night. A guard was also injured in the incident. The ADM (East) said an inquiry would be carried out by the PWD and a meeting would also be held with the ASI officials. However, ASI officials said the repair work was going on following the unfortunate incident.

The site was inspected by the district magistrate, who also heads the Hussainabad and Allied Trust. A senior ASI official said the restoration work was being carried out. "The rains were so strong that the 'burji' collapsed. The



DM and other officials who came for inspection issued directions regarding the repair work," he said. A member of the Hussainabad and Allied Trust said that two stones also fell off.

Minor girl raped

Lucknow (PNS): A sorcerer raped a minor girl on the name of freeing her from the influence of an evil spirit in Mohanlalganj on Tuesday. Police registered a case against the accused, identified as Fakhre Alam of Aigjan (Unnao), and also booked him under POCSO Act. Reports said Alam used to visit a religious place in the locality and would claim to be treating people through religious chants.

The 15-year-old girl used to visit the place along with her mother. On being asked by her mother, Alam started 'treating' her and later raped her. The girl complained to her mother but she did not approach police out of fear. Recently, the victim's father, who works in Mumbai, came back and she complained to him. Her father lodged later lodged a case with police.

Meanwhile, thieves made off with chocolate candies worth Rs 17 lakh from a house in Chinhat on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. Reports said Rajendra Singh who lives in Omaxe City uses the house in Chinhat as his godown. On Tuesday morning, his neighbour called and informed him about the theft. Singh reached the scene and found the locks intact. He then entered the house and found the goods missing.

FIRE
A fire broke out at UP ITI in Aliganj, damaging important documents and computers on Monday night. Aliganj SHO Deepak Pandey said the damages were being estimated. The office was closed due to Independence Day and the police had to break the locks to gain entry.

CITY BRIEFS



DIGIWALK
DIGIWALK was organised by Punjab National Bank on the occasion of Independence Day on Monday. It was flagged off by zonal manager Sanjay Gupta. The zonal manager said the purpose was to make the general public aware about the various digital products of the bank and PNB One App. He also said that PNB One App would prove to be a milestone in the way Indian economy is moving towards digital revolution. Deputy zonal manager Anupam Sharma, divisional head of Lucknow Pawan Singh and all senior officers of the circle were present on the occasion.



Tiranga Yatra taken out by 19 UP Girls Battalion, NCC, Navyug Girls' Degree College on Monday

INDEPENDENCE DAY
Canara Bank Lucknow circle office also celebrated Independence Day on Monday. GM Alok Kumar Agarwal hoisted the tricolour asked all the employees to fulfill their responsibilities. Meanwhile, 64 UP Battalion of NCC, Lucknow University, organised Independence Day celebrations in Lucknow Cantonment under the aegis of NCC Group Headquarters. The programme was organised at Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey Chowk.

Builder nabbed

Lucknow (PNS): A team of Vibhuti Khand police and crime branch team of DCP (East) on Tuesday nabbed a builder accused of duping several investors to the tunes of several crore. The accused was identified as Anil Kumar Tulsyani of Mahanagar. A native of Prayagraj, he ran Tulsyani Construction and Developers Pvt Ltd. Police said Anil was named in cases of fraud amounting to over Rs 8 crore. Meanwhile, an Unnao resident was arrested on Tuesday for duping a woman from Indiranagar of Rs 15 lakh on the pretext of giving her a job at his school. The accused, Virendra Singh, is the manager/owner of the school in Unnao. Victim Manju Singh had met Virendra through Amit Yadav who ran a placement agency in 2017. Virendra had taken Rs 15 lakh for the job while Amit Rs 1.5 lakh as commission. Virendra was arrested from Gomtinagar.

ROBOTICS LAB

UP Chief Secretary Durga Shankar Mishra inaugurated a world-class Robotics Lab at City Montessori School, Gombi Nagar Campus I, on Tuesday. Mishra surveyed the lab and interacted with the students. CMS founder Jagdish Gandhi and other officials of the school apart from teachers, students and parents were present on the occasion.

Jai Jawan Jai Kisaan

Govindgreen Foods Infratech

(Agro Processing Cluster)
(Approved by MOFPI)

- Cold Storage, Fruit Chamber, Banana Ripening
- Food Testing Lab (NABL), Warehouse, Steam Boiler ETP
- Grading of Pulses, Grains, Spices
- Sorting and Preservation of Spices & Dry Fruits

Contact : 9415159091, 9935177017, 9936009191
Village : Bhatauli, Post : Rura, Distt. : Kanpur Dehat U.P.

स्वतन्त्रता की 75वीं वर्षगांठ पर हार्दिक शुभकामनायें

GST NO : 09AADFP3481D1ZB Office Ph. 05442-220698
Mob : 9415205542, 9415323282
80043533677

PRATAP IRON & STEEL COMPANY

Ratanganj, Mirzapur - 231001
Stockist & Dealers of : Steel Authority of India Ltd., Gardar, Saria, Angle, Patari, Sheet, Pipe, Cement etc.

स्वतन्त्रता की 75वीं वर्षगांठ पर हार्दिक शुभकामनायें

पंडित गुप्तराम पाण्डेय
इण्टर कालेज मीरजापुर

पद्मदेव द्विवेदी
प्रबन्धक

देश के 75वें स्वतन्त्रता दिवस पर शुभकामनायें

तेरा वैभव अमर रहे मां हम दिन चार रहे या न रहे

विनोद कुमार केसरवानी
थोक गल्ला व्यवसायी अनगढ़ महावीर मार्ग, मीरजापुर

स्वतन्त्रता दिवस पर सभी देशवासियों शुभकामनायें

रोटरी क्लब मीरजापुर गौरव

सी०ए० रवि कटारे,
अध्यक्ष
संदीप गोयल,
सचिव

स्वतन्त्रता के अमृत महोत्सव पर शुभकामनायें

अब्दुल्ला खान 'पप्पू'
रायल मेडिकल स्टोर मीरजापुर

देश के समस्त नागरिकों को स्वतन्त्रता की 75वीं वर्षगांठ पर ढेर सारी शुभकामनायें

खनिज विभाग मीरजापुर

आशीष चौधरी शिव प्रताप शुक्ल प्रवीण कुमार
खान अधिकारी अपर जिलाधिकारी एवं लक्षकार I.A.S.
प्रमारी अधिकारी जिलाधिकारी

स्वतन्त्रता की 75वीं वर्षगांठ पर हार्दिक शुभकामनायें

आदर्श भारतीय बालिका इण्टर कालेज मीरजापुर

सुचित पाण्डेय,
प्रधानाचार्य

आजादी के अमृत महोत्सव पर देशवासियों को शुभकामनायें

और स्वान्तर्वीरों को श्रद्धा सहित नमन

रामायण सिंह
A+ श्रेणी राजकीय संविदाकार
मोर्चाघर फतहा, मीरजापुर

स्वतन्त्रता की 75वीं वर्षगांठ पर हार्दिक शुभकामनायें

FUEL SHOPPEE

Authorised Dealer of B.P.C.L.
Jangi Road, Mirzapur-231001

Contact No. : 9452338840, 9794536954, 9696636362

स्वतन्त्रता की 75वीं वर्षगांठ पर हार्दिक शुभकामनायें

वी०वी० कृष्ण
अधिकासी अभियन्ता
लघु डाल नहर प्रखण्ड मीरजापुर

स्वतन्त्रता की 75वीं वर्षगांठ पर हार्दिक शुभकामनायें

भारतरत्न सरदार पटेल हास्पिटल,
मडिहान, मीरजापुर

जगदीश सिंह
मुख्य प्रवर्तक

स्वतन्त्रता की 75वीं वर्षगांठ पर हार्दिक शुभकामनायें

भारतरत्न सरदार पटेल हास्पिटल,
मडिहान, मीरजापुर

जगदीश सिंह
मुख्य प्रवर्तक

DC hoists tricolour



Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar takes the I-Day salute at the Collectorate

PNS ■ KANPUR
 Divisional Commissioner Dr Raj Shekhar while hoisting the Tricolour on Independence Day at the Commissionerate extended his wishes to people of Kanpur. He said 'Har Ghar Tiranga' was a campaign to ensure each house and each person held one's national flag and took pride in being called an Indian. He said from this day onwards all efforts will have to be made to ensure the nation completed 100 years and also envision how one wanted one's country to be after 100 years. He said this can be made possible only if people unitedly made efforts with devotion and honesty. He said to take the nation to the topmost

rungs rested on the shoulders of each and every person. He said it was also a matter of pride on this day that the 34th foundation day of the Collectorate was also being observed and he took part in the cake cutting ceremony. He said the Collectorate was established on August 15, 1988. He said it was a matter of pride that India had completed its platinum jubilee and was now aiming at the centennial function. On the occasion he said this was a matter of pride that today in the 75th year of Independence India had emerged as one of the fastest developing nation. He said the achievements were worth mentioning. He said Kanpur now was a smart city and was rapidly developing as one of

the finest metros of the country. He said the development in Kanpur was unparalleled as it was the economic hub of the state. He appealed to people to make more collective efforts for further development. He admitted there were many areas where there was much room for improvement but the targets were achievable. He said the Collectorate was always prepared to provide the best facilities to its residents. Prominent among others who took part in the function were Additional Commissioner Raja Ram, Additional Commissioner (Judicial) Prem Prakash and several other officials, including employees, Bar Association members, advocates and several others.

Class VI student commits suicide

PNS ■ KANPUR

Parth Senger (11), a student of class VI, committed suicide by hanging himself in a room in Yogendra Vihar of Khadepur colony under Hanumant Vihar police station area late on Monday night. Family members broke open the door and brought the student down. They took him to a hospital where the doctors declared him dead. Police along with forensic team rushed to the spot and carried out investigation. Tarun Senger of Yogendra Vihar is retired from the Army and presently employed as a security guard in Bank of Baroda. His family consisted of wife Archana, son Parth and daughter Pragati. SHO Abhilash Mishra said Parth locked himself in a room on Monday night and then hanged himself.

His family members kept on calling him to open the door. It appears that the boy was annoyed with his family members on some issue but the latter did not divulge the details. After quizzing the kin and on the basis of autopsy report, further action would be initiated in the matter, he said.

BOY KILLED: In a tragic incident, a five-year old

boy playing on a tractor was killed when he fell on its rotavator machine in Pachampur village under Sachendi police station area on Monday evening. He died on the spot after his head was cut from the body.

According to reports, Anshuman (5), son of Subhash Singh of Thakur Das Ka Purwa, Sachendi, had arrived at his maternal grandfather Jeet Bahadur Singh's house in Pachampur village with his mother two days ago. On Monday evening he was playing on a tractor standing near the house for ploughing the field.

Meanwhile Anshuman started the tractor which after being suddenly put in gear got immediately stopped with a jerk.

Due to sudden jerk Anshuman fell on its sharp-edged rotavator machine tied with the tractor and was killed.

On hearing the noise of the tractor family members rushed to the spot and found the profusely bleeding body of Anshuman.

SHO Vinod Kumar Singh said the incident took place as the ignition key was not removed from the tractor. In the complaint lodged with the police kin did not blame anybody for the incident, he said.

Unity Run flagged off



Noted Bollywood actor and model, Milind Soman taking part in the Unity Run.

PNS ■ KANPUR

Noted model, actor and fitness expert, Milind Soman while flagging off the Unity Run organised by Union Bank of India from Jhansi Qila to Lal Qila, New Delhi, under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav on Monday said this year the objective of Unity Run was to motivate the people to celebrate the I-Day with zeal and patriotism and pay tributes to all those who had laid down their lives for the country. He said it was a matter to feel proud that millions of people of the country were making collective efforts to push India to the zenith so as to emerge as the topmost developing nation of the world.

He said the Union Bank of India had on this special occa-

sion decided to hold a loan distribution camp along with the vehicle key distribution programme. He said banks collected the savings of the individuals and lent them out to business people and manufacturers. He said bank loans facilitate commerce and manufacturers borrow from banks the money needed for the purchase of raw materials and to meet other requirements such as working capital.

He later appealed to the people to keep fit by exercising daily and said age was number what counts is one's physical fitness.

Addressing the function Circle Head Sumit Srivastava said UBI played an important role in capital formation which is essential for the economic development of a country. He

said it mobilises small savings of the people scattered over a wide area through their network of branches all over the country and make it available for productive purposes. Regional DGM Sanjeev Kumar along with Milind Soman handed over the keys of vehicles and cheques to beneficiaries. Prominent among others present were Jatin Agarwal, Shiv Sen, Manish Ghosh, Arpit Gupta, Vineeta Gupta and several other bank employees.

EXHIBITION: The Canara Bank, Lucknow Circle organised an exhibition on Partition Horror Remembrance Day on August 14. It was inaugurated by General Manager Alok Kumar Agarwal at its Barra Bypass branch. A large number of bank officials and staff were present.

Rich tribute paid to revolutionaries

PNS ■ KANPUR

Sir Padampat Singhania Education Centre (SPSEC) celebrated the 75th year of Independence with exquisite manifestation of patriotic sentiments. The Singhania showcased a colourful spectrum of India's vision which was a proud moment to watch. The fervent students spread the essence of nationalism charged with emotions and pride for their motherland. The festivities of Independence Day was a grand affair. Several events were conducted on school premises throughout the year as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It was a perfect build up to the majestic occasion. The students were introduced to the facts pertaining to freedom struggles, sacrifices made by freedom fighters, their tales of valour and India's emergence as an independent, sovereign, democratic and republic country.

Principal Bhawna Gupta while hoisting the Tricolour made an emotive speech. She



Students of Sir Padampat Singhania Education Centre celebrate I-Day on school campus

paid rich tribute to the revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives. Sarthak Gupta of class XII emphasised on significance of our deliverance from the shackles of servitude. The programme was compered by Sameeksha Bajpai and Sarthak Gupta.

Vindhya, Himachal, Yamuna and Ganga Houses presented a mellifluous choir singing the evergreen patriot-

ic songs. The students from the primary section presented a symphony of a musical band. A dance drama was also presented by students of classes III, IV and V on social evils prevalent in our society.

The live formation of 'Seventy fifth' on the school ground by students beautifully symbolised the 75th year of celebration. The cultural events

came to a befitting conclusion with the slogans 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai', 'Vande Mataram' and 'Jai Hind' with each and every child waving the national flag in their hands. Manager, Accounts and Finance, Ashish Bhargava, Manager Administration, Surendra Yadav, Vice-Principal Kavita Chadha, headmistress Vandana Trivedi and others participated.

DPS celebrates I-Day with patriotic fervour

PNS ■ KANPUR

Delhi Public School (DPS), Serrvodaya Nagar, celebrated the Independence Day on Monday with great patriotic fervour and zeal. The entire school was decorated with tricolours, balloons, kites, encouraging quotations and other thematic decorations. The school campus echoed with patriotic songs to awaken the feeling of pride and love for the nation.

The function opened with the hoisting of the Tricolour by headmistress Pratibha Shukla followed by a cultural programme by students of class IV.

The programme began with the rendition of inspirational lines in which students spoke about the significance of this day and threw light on the history and meaning of independence. India believes in brotherhood, unity and amity and the school choir regaled the audience with a melodious patriotic song.

Fanfare marks I-Day celebrations



KDA Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh addressing the gathering after hoisting the tricolour on Independence Day

PNS ■ KANPUR

Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) organised the Independence Day celebrations with fanfare on Monday. After the flag hoisting by Vice-Chairman Arvind Singh, all the officers and employees sung the national song with him. After garlanding the statue of Mahatma Gandhi, he offered floral tributes on the pictures of great men in Atal Behari Vajpayee auditorium. Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chairman

Arvind Singh said, "we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of India's Independence under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahtsav. During these 75 years, we progressed in all the sectors and today, the country was shining on global map. The entire world was eyeing towards India for its progress". Earlier, OSD Renu Pathak and Secretary Shatrohan Vaishya also addressed the gathering. Officers and employees of KDA were present on the occasion. Law and Public Relations Officer Shashi

Bhushan Rai anchored the programme.

ART COMPETITION: The Indian Thinkers Society organised the art competition, exhibition and felicitation ceremony to mark the 75th Independence Day celebrations at Christ Church Inter College on Monday. Col Neeraj Naithani, ADM CMODT, was the chief guest on the occasion. Dr Umesh Paliwal, Dr Meeta Jamal, Dr Ajay Pathak, Niharika Gupta and Dr Subham Dubey along with others were present

ISKCON to celebrate Krishna Janmashtami on August 19

PNS ■ VARANASI

ISKCON, Varanasi is organising Sri Krishna Janmashtami festival celebration on August 19 which will be followed by the appearance day celebration of ISKCON founder Acharya Sri Prabhupada on August 20.

Talking to the presspersons on Tuesday Acyuta Mohan Das, temple president of ISKCON Varanasi informed that the Krishna Janmashtami celebrations to be held on August 19 which will consist of 24 hour kirtan, Maha Abhishek, Maha arati and prasad distribu-

tion for all the guests. The Janmashtami lecture will begin at 10 pm to be followed by Kalash Maha Abhishek at 11 pm and Maha Arati at midnight on August 19, he added. The ISKCON temple premises will also have game stalls for kids, book stall, gift stall, kalash stall and stalls that will inform the guests about regular activities of the temple. More than 2 lakh guests are expected to visit the temple on the day of Janmashtami. The ISKCON, Varanasi is also celebrating the 126th appearance anniversary of

its Founder Acharya on August 20 from 9 am and onwards. We have lectures, pushpanjali, arati and 108 bhog offerings on this occasion, he informed. We invite all the guests to join us in celebrating the Janmashtami festival and Prabhupada appearance day festival. Acyuta Mohan Das, temple president of ISKCON Varanasi has been instrumental in guiding the organising team of the event. On the occasion, HG Sakshi Murari Das, HG Murari Gupta Das and HG Rasik Govinda Das were also present.

Outstanding officials, employees felicitated

PNS ■ AURAIYA

Project Manager, NTPC Auraiya, Jasvir Singh Ahlawat while hoisting the Tricolour on Monday said India achieved freedom from the Britishers after paying a heavy price. He said this day it was the bounden duty of each person to pay homage to all those who had sacrificed their lives for the nation. He then took a round of the parade ground. He said NTPC will celebrate the I-Day as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav till August 17. He then felicitated the outstanding officials and employees. He said this year the

NTPC Auraiya received umpteen awards, especially the British Security Council Award. He added this year between year 2021 and 2022 NTPC Auraiya planted 5,000 saplings. He said the total capacity of NTPC had shot up to 69,433 MW which was certainly a big achievement.

He said NTPC's business of power generation and lighting up the lives of millions of Indians was famous worldwide and its spirit of caring and sharing was embedded in its mission statement. He said based on our dedication to the cause since inception, NTPC had made massive achieve-



Project Manager, NTPC Auraiya, Jasvir Singh Ahlawat, addressing the I-Day function.

ments in the field of renewable energy.

He said NTPC was proud that its CSR initiatives and programmes were benefitting over a million of our countrymen in over 500 odd villages in the neighbourhood of our stations and plants thanks to a vigorous structure, well documented policies and a streamlined process.

He said NTPC is also a member of Global Compact Network, India and confirmed its involvement in various CSR activities in line with 10 Global Compact principles and shares its experiences with the world.

COURT NOTICE
 CITATION (BY ADVERTISEMENT)
 (Chapter XXX, Rule-21)
 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT ALLAHABAD
 ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
 TESTAMENTARY AND INTESTATE JURISDICTION
TESTAMENTARY CASE NO. 78 OF 2022
 IN THE MATTER OF
 THE GOODS OF
 Late Anita Devi Kureel Daughter of
 Late Chhedi Lal Resident of 26/7, Allenganj, Settlement,
 District Kanpur, Nagar, U.P. (Deceased).
 Arun KumarPetitioner.
 WHEREAS an application has been
 made by Arun Kumar son of Late Chhedi
 Lal resident of 26/7, Allenganj, Settlement,
 District Kanpur, Nagar, for the probate of
 the will (or Letters of Administration to the
 estate) of Late Anita Devi Kureel
 deceased, who died at Madhuraj
 Nursing Home, Kanpur on 24.05.2017
AND WHEREAS, the 5th day of
September, 2022 has been fixed for
hearing of the said application, THIS
CITATION is issued calling upon all persons
claiming to have any interest to come and
see the proceedings if they think fit before
the grant of probate (or Letters of
Administration).
 Given under my hand and the seal of
 the Court this 29th day of July, 2022.
DEPUTY REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT, ALLAHABAD
 Shri Ashish Jaiswal,
 Advocate
 Counsel for the Petitioner.

Ramada Hotel holding sizzler festival

PNS ■ VARANASI

The Hotel Ramada Plaza JHV, Varanasi is holding a Sizzler Festival offering the visitors a combination of hot, spicy, flavorful, fusion and wholesome sizzlers at a feature price. The festival will continue till August 26.

Talking to the presspersons on Tuesday, the hotel manager Vipul Bhargav, food & beverage manager Basant Pandey and executive chef Irfan Khan informed that sizzlers are a recent innovation that consists of an entire meal being served on a cast iron platter which is in turn placed on a wooden base and added that a sizzler is a combination of the main dish served with a choice of sauce and a large variety of accompaniments making it a complete meal by itself. The sizzler



Sizzler Festival being held at Ramada Hotel in Varanasi on Tuesday.

has been created with a fusion of regional and international delicacies with the option available in both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, they informed adding that there are 10 varieties of dishes including five each vegetarian and non-vegetarian. The specialty of the

festival is that there are piping hot dishes and sizzlers with the complement to enhance the dishes, they informed and added that it could add enjoyment to the visitors in this monsoon season. The additional specialty of the festival is sizzlers with drinks both

alcohol and non-alcohol on the choice of visitors, they informed further.

CRICKET TOURNAMENT: Under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an inter-school cricket tournament was organised under the joint auspices of Raj Sports Academy

and Computer Institute of Management & Studies (CIMS) on the sports ground of the Raj English School in Akatha here. There were two groups- A and B in the tournament and the group-A was for the school children aged up to 12 years, while the group B was for the students aged above 12 years. The final match of both groups ended in a draw and in a tough contest, Tanav Singh won the final match of group A, while Shabd Monga remained runner up. In the group B, Ankit Patel won the final match, while Yash Rai stood runner up.

Ganga, Yamuna swell again

Prayagraj (PNS): The water level of Ganga and Yamuna rivers has started rising once again in Prayagraj. Rain water is being released from dams and barrages in Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhnad. Due to this, the water level of Ganga and Yamuna has been increasing rapidly for the last two days. In this regard, an alert has been issued by the district administration in the coastal areas. Flood outposts have also been activated.

Due to heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh, there is a situation of flood in the rivers there. Due to this water is being released from dams and barrages located on Ken and Betwa rivers. One lakh cuces of water is being released from Matatila dam for three days, the effect of which is visible in Yamuna river. The water level of Yamuna in Prayagraj has increased by three meters dur-

ing the last 24 hours. The water level of Yamuna reached 79.40 meters on Tuesday morning. Due to this water has started entering the villages on the banks of Yamuna. There has been a stir in these villages. People have started moving towards safer places. Similarly, the water in the Ganges river is also increasing. Water is being released into the Ganga from Narora Dam and Kanpur Barrage. Its effect is also visible in Prayagraj. On Tuesday, the water level of Ganga reached 79.94 meters in Prayagraj. The Sangam area has been submerged due to the rise in the water level of both the rivers. Instructions have been given by the district administration for extra vigilance in the flood affected areas. DM Sanjay Kumar Khatri has given instructions to activate the flood posts built on the banks of both the rivers.

Patriotic fervour grips Kashi



Independence Day being celebrated in Varanasi on Monday (from left top-clockwise)— DM KR Sharma awarding a student; CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary honouring a health worker; PMG KK Yadav addressing postal employees and Commandant MK Sharma presenting a citation to NDRF personnel.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Patriotic fervour gripped this entire holy city on the occasion of Independence Day when a variety of programmes were organised at different places here on Monday. With full enthusiasm and gaiety, the students of different schools took out Prabhat Pheri and then the national flag was hoisted on the government and semi-government buildings, symbolising the pride of the country. UP Minister of Labour, Employment and Coordination department Anil Rajbhar hoisted the tricolour at Labour department office, while District Judge Dr Ajay Krishna Vishwesh at Civil Court, Principal Ravindra Kumar Singh at Commissioner's office in presence of Divisional Commissioner (DC) Deepak Agrwal, District Magistrate (DM) Kaushal Raj Sharma at Collectorate, Vice Chairperson

Isha Duhan at Varanasi Development Authority (VDA), Chief Development Officer Abhishek Goyal at Vikas Bhawan. On the occasion, colorful cultural programmes were presented by the students of different schools in the Commissionerate auditorium. The students of Harishchandra Girls Inter College performed Vande Mataram group dance, while their counterparts of Uday Pratap Inter College presented drama on Chandrashekhar Azad, Government Girls Inter College patriotic group dance, Sudhakar Mahila Intermediate College 'Har Ghar Tiranga', Vallabh Vidyapeeth Girls Inter College Yogasan, Kasturba Girls Inter College Rajasthani dance, Rani Murar Kumari Girls Inter College Deepdan Nritya, Sant Atulanand Convent School group dance and Sunbeam School Annapurna group patriotic

dance. Earlier, the DM hoisted the flag at the camp office and planted saplings of Peepal, Banyan and Pakar. Besides, Prabhat Pheri was organised by the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS) in Sarnath. This was followed by a parade by the students of the institute. After that the Vice-Chancellor Prof Geshe Nawang Samten hoisted the flag. At the premises of 11 NDRF Battalion, the officers and personnel of the NDRF were awarded Utkrishit Seva Medal, NDRF Medal and other citations for their excellent performance during relief and rescue operations in various disasters. Commandant Manoj Kumar Sharma explained the importance of duties towards the nation. In a function at Varanasi Cantt Head Post Office, the Postmaster General (PMG) of Varanasi Region Krishna Kumar Yadav hoisted the flag

and honoured postal employees who have done excellent work in various fields. A Special Cover with special cancellation on 'Har Ghar Tiranga' was also released by Yadav to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and Har Ghar Tiranga. Senior Superintendent of Post Offices Rajan Rao, Superintendent of Posts PC Tiwari, Assistant Directors Dinesh Sah and Brajesh Sharma, Senior Postmaster Chandrashekhar Singh Barua, Postmaster Cantt Head Post Office Gopal Dubey and many others were also present. Besides, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary hoisted the flag at his office. He also honoured the medical officers, doctors and the staff for the excellent work done in the family planning programme and First Referral Unit (FRU) of the district under the National Health Mission. ACOs, DCMOs and many others were also present.

I-Day celebrated with fanfare at NCR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Nation's 76th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fanfare at North Central Railway Headquarters, Prayagraj. The program started with flag hoisting by the General Manager Mr Pramod Kumar.

On the occasion, the General Manager inspected the parade of Railway Protection Force, Bharat Scout and Guides and St. John Ambulance Brigade. The General Manager also awarded the railway personnel for outstanding performance.

The awardees included Binay Kumar Singh- Traffic Inspector/Planning, R. K. Patel - SSE/Signal, Rajeev Kumar Singh - SSE, Narendra Kumar - Assistant/Signal, Arjun Patel - Assistant Loco Pilot, Bhawan Singh Meena - SSE, Kanhaiya - Technician - III, Shiv Singh Meena - Keyman, Suresh Chandra - Black Smith, Shiv Shankar Singh- Constable, Kuldeep Tripathi- Loco Pilot/Mail, R. Of. Pachauri - Loco Pilot/Mail, Ravi Shankar - Junior Engg./Track, Kamlesh Kumar - Trackman-IV, Sanjay Kumar Singh - Loco Pilot/Goods, Diwan Singh - Gateman, Dharmendra Pandey - Chief Commercial Inspector, Ved Prakash - Technician-I, Subhash Chand Meena - SSE,



General Manager inspecting the parade of Railway Protection Force, Bharat Scout and Guides and St. John Ambulance Brigade

Hira Lal - Movement Inspector, Manoj Meena - SSE, Devendra Pratap Singh - Movement Inspector, Sanjay Kumar Asthana - Executive Engineer/TMC, Rishi Prakash - Assistant Divisional Mechanical Engineer/ Tundla, Dinesh Kumar Tyagi - Loco Pilot/Mail, Dr. Sanjay Kumar-Senior Divisional Medical Officer, Rahul Yadav-Sub Inspector/ Kanpur Central. In the same sequence, railway personnel who contributed in the successful organization of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav program were also honoured. Under this, Ragini Singh - Public Relations Officer, Preeti

Kumari - Chief Staff and Welfare Inspector, Amit Kumar Singh - Public Relations Officer, V.K. Dwivedi - Station Director, Ravinder Singh - Sr. Block Engineer / Power Supply, Surendra Kumar Srivas - Chief Staff & Welfare Inspector, Rajnish Kumar Srivastava - Train Manager (Mail / Passenger), Smt. Shashi Vyas - DOC / Guide, Bharat Scouts & Guides, Praveen Kumar - Chief Staff & Welfare Inspector, Shambhu Kumar - Senior Block Engineer / Tele, Lakhan Singh Meena - Assistant / Work was awarded. General Manager Pramod Kumar and President, North

Central Railway Women's Welfare Organization, Mrs. Punam Kumar released the tricolour balloons in the air. Cultural performances were presented by the members of North Central Railway's cultural team on the occasion.

During the function, the General Manager gave heartfelt greetings to all the employees, officers of North Central Railway and their families on the auspicious occasion of the 76th Independence of the nation. The General Manager addressed the gathering and said,

"On this momentous occasion, when we are celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, I extend my warm greetings to all members of the North Central Railway family. All of us are fortunate enough to be born in free India. It is the occasion to pay tributes to all those great men and women, who fought for the freedom of India. As we hoist our National Tri-Colour on this august day, let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of Nation's Unity, development and progress".

In his address the general manager touched each and every point of development and achievements attained during the past one year and hoped that officials and employees would achieve more in months to come.

Nazareth Hospital celebrates I-Day with vigour, pomp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Nazareth Hospital celebrated with great vigour, pomp and colorful presentation of the 75th Year of Independence "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". The Chief Guest for the occasion was Justice Gautam Chowdhary of the Allahabad High Court. The program began with a soul-stirring Prayer sung by the Hospital Choir.

The welcome address to the Chief Guest was delivered by Rev. Fr. Louis Mascarenhas, Director Nazareth Hospital. Dr. Ashok Agarwal, MS. The Chief Medical Superintendent gave a floral welcome to the Chief Guest. This was followed by hoisting of the National Flag by the Chief Guest and subsequent rendition of the National Anthem.



The Chief Guest addressed the audience of Hospital

Doctors, Rev. Sisters, Staff and Students of Nazareth School of Nursing. In his address he stressed the importance of the

Independence Day and emphatically urged everyone to take pride and contribute in Nation building in their own small ways and by performing their duties diligently. In the context of 75th Year of Independence Day of India celebrated nationally as "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", he also emphasized that the contributions of National freedom fighters whose contribution cannot be forgotten.

A Hospital memento was presented to the Chief Guest by Rev. Fr. Louis Mascarenhas, Director. This was followed by a beautiful patriotic song rendered by the Hospital Choir.

A formal Vote of Thanks to the Chief Guest and the assembled gathering was delivered by Dr. Dhawal Kirti Tiwari, MS.

Minister leads Tiranga Yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

To mark the Independence Day, the UP Minister of Labour, Employment and Coordination department Anil Rajbhar led the Tiranga Yatra taken out in the city on the occasion of Independence Day here on Monday. Besides, he also attended several other programmes organised by different departments. He led a Tiranga Yatra taken out from Chandpur crossing to Lohta Ramlila Maidan. A good number of people were present in the procession. He also laid the foundation stone for the construction of the road from Shiva temple at Gotha near Bawan Bigha to Brahm Naba temple on Pandeypur-Azamgarh road. Besides, the minister participated in the Ganga Gram Domri massive plantation programme by planting saplings.



UP Minister Anil Rajbhar leading a Tiranga Yatra on the occasion of Independence Day in Varanasi on Monday.

Pandey. He also honoured the family members of the freedom fighters Prakash Chandra Srivastava, Saraswati Mishra, Chhaya Bapat, K Manju Pandey and Gulam Rabbani by presenting them angvas-trum.

Earlier, the Minister distributed certificates to the workers being benefited from the schemes run under the UP Government and other construction workers welfare board. Ayushman cards, e-shram cards and Pradhan Mantri Shram cards and Yogi

Maandhan Pension Yojana cards were also distributed to the beneficiaries. The guests were welcomed by ADM (City) Gulab Chandra, while the vote of thanks was proposed by Madhur Singh, Additional Labour Commissioner.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajbhar highlighted the importance of the tricolour and called that the tricolour should not be insulted under any circumstances. He explained in detail the achievements of the state government, which is marching on the path of development

with new energy, strength and values. Underlining the importance of Ayushman card, he said that there are only four such countries in the world, where such schemes are being run in which three countries are in the category of developed countries. Describing it as very beneficial for the construction workers, he called upon them to register themselves as construction workers, so that they can get the benefits of the schemes run by the board. In collaboration with the Department of Culture, patriotic songs were also presented.

Besides, under the tree plantation mass movement launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Harishankari tree plantation programme was organised in Domri Ganga village in which the Minister planted the saplings of Banyan, Peepal, Pakar etc. Conservator of Forests (Varanasi Circle) Ramesh Chandra, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Sanjay Sharma, SDFO Rakesh Kumar and other Forest department officers and employees were also present.

Cultural events held at BLW, NER

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Various events including parade, cultural and literary events and others marked the celebrations of Independence Day at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) and Varanasi Division of North Eastern Railway (NER) here on Monday. At BLW Stadium, the programme started with the flag hoisting by General Manager (GM) Anjali Goyal. She inspected the parade of units of Railway Protection Force (RPF), St John's Ambulance Brigade and Civil Defense team. Paying homage to the freedom fighters, the GM said that today we are all feeling joy and gaiety on the completion of the glorious journey of 75 years of independence.



GM Anjali Goyal presenting gift to a child at BLW Stadium in Varanasi on Monday.

On the occasion, several former BLW employees were honoured. Prizes were given to the students of BLW Inter College who got the highest marks in various competitions. Some articles were presented to BLW Hospital on behalf of BLW Women's Welfare Organisation. After that, along with the artists of BLW Cultural Institute, students of Chetna, Bal Niketan, St. John's School, Sangeet Mahavidyalaya and Bharat Scouts and Guides presented an attractive cultural programme. At the end, the vote of thanks was proposed by Public Relations Officer Rajesh Kumar and the entire pro-

gramme was conducted by Amlesh Srivastava.

At Railway Mini Stadium, Lahartara, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Ramashray Pandey honoured 14 employees who made remarkable contributions in railway safety and security by giving them citation and cash awards at divisional level. Apart from this, the DRM also honoured 15 trainers who made the Mission Rail Karmayogi training programme successful by giving a cash prize of Rs 2000 to each employee and certificates. Along with this, eight running ticket examiners who made commendable contributions in

the ticket checking campaign were honoured with cash prizes and citations.

ADRM (Infra) Gyanesh Tripathi, ADRM (Operations) SP5 Yadav, ADRM (Admn) Rahul Srivastava, Chairperson of Divisional Women Welfare Organisation Sujata Pandey, SDCM Sanjeev Sharma, SDE (Coordination) Rakesh Ranjan, SDS & TE Rajat Priya, SDOM AP Singh, SDME (Carriage & Wagon) Satyaprakash Srivastava, SDME (O&F) Alok Kesharwani, SDFM Preeti Verma, SDE-I Rishi Srivastava, SDE-II Satyam Kumar Singh, SDE-III Anuj Verma, SDPO Sameer Paul, SDSC Abhishek, DPO Vivek and employees working at Divisional Office were present.

On the occasion, the Chairperson of DWWO Sujata Pandey and the members of the Executive Committee inquired about the condition of the patients of NER Divisional Hospital and took cognizance of the facilities available to them. They also distributed fresh fruits, biscuits and other articles to all the patients admitted in the Cancer Institute and Divisional Hospital apart from special baby kits to the newborn babies.

Festival spl trains likely to provide relief

PRAYAGRAJ (PNS): Big festivals like Diwali and Chhath are in the last week of October. It is still more than two months, but at present, seats are full in long distance trains going from Delhi to Prayagraj and going to Bihar. Now waiting tickets are not being booked in many trains. In such a situation, the path of returning home on Diwali and Chhath is going to be difficult this time.

However, like every time, this time too, the festival special trains of the Railways will run and the passengers are expected to get convenience from it.

This time Diwali is expected to be more bright in front of people who have gone through financial crisis and trouble due to Corona. Relatives of the people are eager to share the

happiness of festivals with their families. The eagerness for passengers to come home on Diwali and Chhath Mahapary is reflecting the increasing waiting in trains. Its maximum impact is being seen on the Delhi-Howrah route. All trains on this route have a very long wait for all the dates around Diwali.

Deepawali and Chhath festivals are in the last week of October. This time Diwali is falling on October 24, while Chhath festival will start on October 28. The people of UP Bihar who are living in other states will return to celebrate both these festivals. As a result of this, almost all the long distance trains coming to Prayagraj are full before Diwali in October.

There is no room in North

East Express and Howrah Humsafar on October 23, a day before Diwali. Apart from this, long waiting times are going on in dozens of trains.

Trains which are showing long waiting list including Ranchi Garib Rath 168, Poorva Express 178, Mahabodhi Express 144, Swatantra Senani Express 160, Mahananda Express 155, Seemanchal Express 157, Brahmaputra Mail 145, Purushottam Mail 215, Prayagraj Express 88, Prayagraj Humsafar 60, Magadh Express 112, Netaji Express 111, Unchahar Express 100, Sampark Kranti Express 88.

Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of North Central Railway (NCR) Dr. Shivam Sharma said that the rush of passengers increases a

lot during festivals. Now passengers pay more attention to advance booking of tickets, due to which reserved seats in trains are booked well in advance. Special trains will be run on the festival, added Dr. Sharma.

YOUTH SHOT AT: A youth was shot at over some petty issues during a Tiranga rally on the occasion of Independence Day on Monday. The incident happened when people delved into the gaiety of Independence Day by taking out tricolour rallies everywhere, then a youth was shot at and injured in the saffron village of Ghurpur. Police said that Manoj Kumar was shot at and injured in a dispute over playing DJ music. The injured Manoj has been admitted to Swaroop Rani Nehru Hospital.

Independence Day celebrated

CORRESPONDENT ■ MIRZAPUR

Independence Day was celebrated across the district on Monday. Amidst the Amrit Mahotsav celebrations Tiranga Yatras were organised up to the village and ward levels in which different organisations played an active role. The main function was organised at City Club in which administrative authorities and people's representatives were present. Addressing the function UP Minister for Technical Education Ashish Patel said we should learn from the past. Stressing that we should feel proud of our glorious past, he said it was our duty to strengthen the nation and maintain its sovereignty. The minister said it was the due to able leadership of PM and CM that the nation as well as the state was moving ahead in all fields. Mentioning the 'Make in India' policy he said it succeeded in attracting foreign investors and ratio of

export was in the increasing order. He thanked CM Yogi whose policies were proving fruitful regarding investment in the state and opportunities for jobs were in right order. Enumerating the achievements of the state government the minister claimed zero tolerance policy towards crime was evident as crime graph remains in a shrinking order. About women's safety minister said for that very purpose Mission Shakti was launched and results were visible. Divisional Commissioner Yogeshwar Ram Mishra said it will be real respect to the martyrs if we perform our duties honestly. The minister was accorded a warm reception by being presented a bouquet by DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar, MLA Ratnagar Mishra, MLC Shyam Narain Singh 'Vineet Singh', Chairman Zila Panchayat Raju Kanaujia and others were present.

HONOURED: Under Amrit Mahotsav celebrations

Chief Treasury Officer Archana Tripathi honoured veteran pensioners from different fields. Mola Devi was the main attraction who attended the programme even at the age of 104. CTO handed over shawl along with felicitation letter to the invited pensioners. Prominent among those who got the honour were freedom fighter Vidya Sagar Shukla, retired principal and a renowned litterateur Brij Dev Pandey, Vasudhanand Dwivedi, Jagdish Prasad Srivastava retired from financial services, Kamla Prasad Tripathi who had retired from police and others.

PROGRAMME: All India president of Akhil Bhartiya Saraswat Parishad Vivekanand Tiwari said it was easy to live as a saint in caves but in comparison it was an uphill task for a household to lead the life of a saint simultaneously holding family responsibilities. These views were expressed by him while addressing the felicita-

tion ceremony of Swami Deenbandhu Maharaj at Vindhayachal on Monday. Speaking as the chief guest he said the organisation used to identify 10 personalities from different fields every year on the basis of their outstanding services through a panel of experts in which name Deenbandhu's name was finalised for conferring the award.

Introducing the guests on the stage Shishir Upadhyay said the chief guest was an IITian who had written more than 100 books on different subjects and was also active abroad for the spread of Sanatan Dharm. Sarvesh Kumar chief of foreign affairs of the organisation threw light over organisational activities. The programme was convened by Anuj Pandey and vote of thanks was proposed by Sohan Lal Srimali. Mani Shankar Mishra, Nageshwar Jaiswal, Rakesh Shukla, Mahendra Jaiswal and others were present.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Complacent MEA

The arrival of a Chinese spy ship in Sri Lanka is part of its anti-India activities, but Jaishankar downplays it

Yuan Wang 5, a tracking and satellite support vessel, reaching Sri Lanka's Hambantota port should not surprise anyone. India had objected to such a ship in its proximity but if someone thought that such objections would sensitise the Chinese Communist Party to our concerns, they were living in a fool's paradise. On the face of it, there is nothing illegal about the trip, for it is to a port that the Chinese own; and it is in a country that is sovereign. It can be argued that if Sri Lanka is okay with the trip, we can't oppose it. But we can, because it is a hostile vessel with capabilities which are inimical to our interests. Expert opinion is that Yuan Wang 5 at the Hambantota port, which is strategically located in the Indian Ocean, can seriously compromise our missile and satellite programmes. That is the intention; this seems to be part of the encirclement of India. The exercise is also in tune with the multipronged action by China to emerge as a, and then the, global hegemon. It believes that the world should begin adapting itself to the emerging reality, so on Saturday it asked India to reiterate its support for the One-China Policy against the backdrop of the crisis in the Taiwan Strait which was triggered by US House of Representatives Speaker Pelosi's trip to Taiwan. That is, New Delhi should assuage Beijing's bruised sensitivities, but expect no reciprocity. Hence the arrival of Yuan Wang 5.

The arrival also underlines the incompetence of our foreign office; if we couldn't pressure Colombo even at this point of time, in the wake of billions of dollars of aid to the crisis-hit nation, to do something that suits us, then we will never be able to that in future. The Ministry of External Affairs' incompetence seems monumental when viewed against the backdrop of the resistance that Yuan Wang 5 faced from several Sri Lankan politicians. Sri Lanka's Tamil Progressive Alliance leader and Colombo's Member of Parliament Mano Ganesan said in a statement the coming of the Chinese spy vessel to Lankan waters was "simply wrong." He went on to highlight India's concerns, pointing out that India is the country which has "provided near \$4 billion to us in our time of crisis." To be fair to the Sri Lanka Government, it did request China to defer the arrival of Yuan Wang 5 at the Hambantota port "until further consultations" on the matter. In typical diplomatese, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar downplayed the incident. In an interview to a newspaper, he said, "We need to take care of our national interests but can't claim exclusivity in the region. To say that this [the permission to allow the Chinese vessel to dock at the Sri Lankan port] is a flashpoint between India and China would be inappropriate." An echo of the infamous statement by Nehru, "Not a blade of grass grows there..."?

PICTALK



People from Parsi community greet one another on 'Navroz', the Parsi New Year, in Mumbai

Pariwarvaad vs dostvaad !

The Prime Minister once again took a jibe at the Gandhis with pariwarvaad. But is there a party free from it, the BJP included

The Prime Minister once again from the ramparts of Red Fort reminded the nation to root out dynasty and colonial mindset. The 'pariwarvaad' which the Prime Minister has talked about several times in his speeches once again figured in his speech on the 76th Independence Day. It was indeed a brilliant speech that hit all the right notes; from corruption to nepotism and doing away with the colonial mindset. While other messages were loud and clear for the people, his mentioning of the dynasty in his speech was indeed a veiled attack on the Nehru-Gandhi family. The Red Fort speech conventionally has been about what the Government has done and plans to do for the betterment of the people. The political messages have not been part of it and attacking the opponents from the ramparts of Red Fort does not augur well for a healthy democracy. For attacking the Opposition, there are numerous platforms available to the Prime Minister including Parliament. But since the Prime Minister chose to speak about it the reaction also came from the Opposition, surprisingly not from the Congress (Rahul Gandhi refused to comment on it) but from Aam Aadmi Party.

Manish Sisodia was quick to retort and remind the Prime Minister about his defaulter friends. Manish Sisodia did not mince words in saying if 'pariwarvaad' is bad so is 'dostvaad'. Sisodia was categorical in pointing out how the Prime Minister waved off millions of loans his friends owed to Indian banks. 'Dostvaad' is the new word coined by him. Kejriwal

also insisted that loans and taxes to the tune of ₹10 lakh crore of corporate friends are being written off. As they say, we choose our friends while family chooses us. We don't live in a perfect world. Dynasty and nepotism is bad for democracy, it is the way things are in India and outside. The Kennedys and Bush family in America, Yadavs and Reddys in India are a case in point. Even numerous instances of 'pariwarvaad' can be cited in the BJP itself. Piyush Goel, Anurag Thakur, Parvesh Verma would have a very different take. No matter how hard you try but still you cannot win elections in India on merit; caste and religion often are a better bet in elections merit. At the end of the day, what matters is how democratic a person is and how much he cares for the people who vote for him. Despots like Hitler, Mussolini and Stalin did not have a lineage. They weren't democratic either.

New Panchsheel for India @ 75

PM Modi's thrust for five tenets is not only bold but timely as unshackling us from the colonial mindset is of utmost import



PRADEEP BAJPAI

Of the five pledges that Prime Minister Modi set out for the country in his ninth Independence Day address to the nation, two stood out particularly, for their relative newness. The rest of the speech was on expected lines - his customary denunciation of corruption and the corrupt, nepotism, dynasticism and calls for development, self-reliance, pride in our legacy, unity, and cooperation, and equality for all across ethnic, regional, and religious diversities. As always, there were subtle nuances that hinted at things to come. But before that, the two standout points.

First, he alluded to the hundreds of years of servitude and dependence, Ghulami, that has distorted our mentality and emphasised forcefully that the last vestiges thereof must be removed from the recesses of our minds. India no longer needed, he said, certificates of validation from the world. It was a bold, unvarnished statement, one that no previous Indian PM had articulated, more so on such an occasion and venue. It was as if, the soul of a nation long suppressed was finding utterance, to borrow Nehru's mellifluous phrase, in Modi's compelling oratory. With the spare, somber ramparts of the Red Fort in the background and the forgettable, poignant medieval past of the country that it evokes in a majority of Indians, the moment was rich in historical irony.

It was testimony to India's newfound confidence and the Narendra Modi government's resolute will to not play to the gallery, both foreign and domestic. It is this single-minded pursuit of India's national interest, oblivious to international bouquets or internal brickbats that have enabled the revocation of article 370, as also our balanced, nonpartisan approach to the Ukraine-Russia conflict. No more is India prepared to cave into international pressure as it did in July 1972 when it signed the Shimla agreement without settling the Kashmir dispute



even when our Army had brought Pakistan to its knees and 93,000 POWs were barricaded in our cantonments.

Secondly, the PM was categorical that everyone, including Chief ministers and even the Prime Minister himself, must follow the duties of citizenship. That his focus was on politicians is borne out by his mentioning "CMs and PM" to illustrate his point. This has wide ramifications for the Indian polity. Thus, it cautions the politician to be honest and law-abiding; to keep national interests paramount instead of compromising them in the pursuit of short-term electoral gains; to avoid the Revadi or freebies culture that he had spoken of recently and that had drawn adverse comments from the Supreme Court also; to rein in the hubris that makes for a wanton disregard of propriety, probity, and ethics in public life. It was a statesman's admonition to a delinquent lot known more for financial scams, mafia links, criminal background, nativist demagoguery, casteist manipulation, nepotism, and dynastic



THE PRIME MINISTER WAS CATEGORICAL THAT EVERYONE, INCLUDING CHIEF MINISTERS AND EVEN THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF, MUST FOLLOW THE DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP

entitlement. The common man must have been touched to the core, tired and weary as he is of the shenanigans of the political brats.

These two pledges apart, he exhorted the states towards healthy, cooperative, and competitive federalism, a far cry from some leaders playing off one against the other. His call against nepotism included fields other than politics - sports, for instance; his stress on meritocracy was refreshing in a country long riven by caste-based reservations in education and jobs. He paid homage to the leading lights of our freedom struggle cutting across party and ideological lines including, inter alia, Nehru, JP, and Lohia. He repeatedly spoke of "my 130 crore countrymen", "unity and integration", "collective conscience", "no one mine, no one other" and India's diversity is its biggest asset. Clearly, no group is left out in Modi's scheme for India 2047. For a leader who was branded "India's Divider-in-Chief" in a hallowed international magazine not so long ago, his unifying personality and speech were telling

reminders to the audience of the actual contrary reality.

As in previous years, the PM mixed freely and joyfully with children from all regions who responded spontaneously with "pure delight on their faces" as one TV commentator put it. Folk artists, from different states, broke into their traditional dances rapturously when Modi reached them through the throng. The enthusiastic hoisting of the tricolor at Lal Chowk, Srinagar by a motley bunch of different ethnic and religious backgrounds was a welcome surprise. It was Modi's favourite slogan - sabka saath, sab ka vishvaas or everyone's support, everyone's trust - writ large on the TV screen. India, it seemed, was truly on its way.

Blurb: The PM was categorical that everyone, including Chief ministers and even the Prime Minister himself, must follow the duties of citizenship

(The writer, a former banker, has turned in his mellow years to column-writing out of his love for nonviolence, social harmony and universal brotherhood.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TALIBAN FAILED TO WIN HEARTS

Sir - The occupation of Afghanistan by the Taliban with Lightning speed triggered a political and humanitarian crisis. The Taliban made soothing statements about not victimizing women so long as their lifestyle is within the purview of Sharia Law inter alia men's slaves. They regard the Sharia as Divine Law but most are unaware it's a document imposed by Khalifas for selfish reasons replacing the Holy Quran.

The Quran decrees no earthly punishment for blasphemy or apostasy, nor does it anywhere command stoning for any crime, condone female circumcision, or support banning art and music. It does not endorse treating women as inferior or preventing them from going for higher education and even joining any profession. Taliban's misinterpretation of Sharia has become a synonym with a draconian and inhuman Islamic legal system. Even after one year of rule, the Taliban remains brutally subtle.

Seetharam B | Telangana

LONG ROAD TO 'DEVELOPED' INDIA

Sir - It refers to "India, a developed nation". It is good to have an ambitious target to become a developed nation in the next 25 years. But there is a huge gulf that is to be bridged in this span of time. While India's per capita income is around \$ 2000 while our neighbour China has \$ 8700. Though the Prime Minister has outlined five pledges which need to be abided by one and all in letter and spirit but for that to happen a drastic shift in mindset is required. This pandemic has exposed the vulnerabilities of a developed nation like the USA, so we Indians must take pride in being Indian. It is not to suggest that we should not become a developed nation but we need to be mindful of our trajectory.

Besides that, there is a huge disparity between rich and poor and men and women which needs to be bridged systematically. And gradually we will have to reduce our dependence on imported items and start manufacturing them in India.

Takeaways from PM's I-Day speech



In his third longest 83 minutes speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the ramparts of the Red Fort, clearly showed that he was not in a mood like the previous eight years to have painted castles in the air for Indian voters. Hence, he was not making any new announcements and even did not speak a word about his promises for 2022, and now next deadline is 2047... keep counting the years. Instead, PM Modi launched the political campaign for 2024 on these twin challenges of "corruption" and "nepotism" - something that he has used in the run-up to the 2014 general elections, and knows that it still has resonance among the electorate.

Is there bigger nepotism than a greenhorn like Anil Ambani, who has no prior experience

in manufacturing defence equipment or even hosted a manufacturing utility, getting priority over an experienced and reputed player in the field, namely HAL, a PSU to boot, in being co-opted as an offset partner for Rafale? Similarly, the Sri Lankan Official, Ferdinando, alleged that his country was put under tremendous pressure by PM Modi to award a 500 MW renewable energy project to industrialist Gautam Adani. These two are instances of creeping nepotism. So, this time the Modi government has to focus on 'Panchpran' (five promises) - First, to move forward with bigger resolves and resolve of developed India; second, to erase all traces of servitude; third, to be proud of our legacy; fourth, focus on our strength of unity; and fifth, fulfill the duties of citizens with honesty (talk is fine but what is the status of those who looted India and migrated to BJP like Hemant Biswa Sharma and others), which should be done by the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers as well. Depending upon this Modi in his speech gave a broad direction for the next quarter of a century, though it assumes that he will not be there.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

Though we attract a lot of medical tourism, in terms of Doctor to the Patient ratio we lack far behind WHO norms, so we need to seriously overhaul our healthcare infrastructure along with the education sector.

Bal Govind | Noida

UNWORKABLE MARRIAGES

Sir - The Kerala High Court has held that the preservation of unworkable marriage causes great misery. The Court has observed that nothing is gained by trying to keep the parties tied forever to a marriage that in fact has ceased to exist. If the married couples cannot function as a cohesive unit, the dissolution of marriage becomes inevitable. Love and adjustability in married life should come from within and be spontaneous. Likewise, courts cannot make stubborn couples mentally

unite. Break-up in the marriage occurs more due to the lack of adjustability of a married girl with her in-laws, perpetration of the cruelty by in-laws and husband on the woman, greed for dowry, illicit relationships, etc. Courts must dispose of cases expeditiously when there is an unanimous decision between the husband and wife to avoid uncertainty in the future. The judgment of the Kerala High Court has come in the case 13 years after the marriage was consummated. It would have an adverse effect when both are hell-bent on securing a divorce. In any case, delayed disposal of cases is no better though it has both merits and demerits.

KV Seetharamiah | Bengaluru

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

I offer Central Govt to use our services. Keep politics aside. Use our services- you, we & 130 cr Indians will together improve all schools. All Govts (States) will do it together. And stop calling this a freebie.



Delhi CM - Arvind Kejriwal

Rushdie stood for universal rights of freedom of expression.



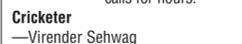
US Secretary of State - Tony Blinken

Our India stands tall with the strength of our relentless defense forces. There's so much and more to love, be proud of and celebrate. Here's to our Independence!! Jai Hind.



Actor - Hritik Roshan

Anshu Jain was a friend and an avid cricket lover. Used to speak non-stop cricket on phone calls for hours.



Cricketer - Virender Sehwag

Tiranga is foremost a symbol of our independence from British rule and freedom from monarchy and feudalism. Deplorable that Scindia doesn't mention the British as 'foreign aggressors'.



AIMIM leader - Asaduddin Owaisi



FIRST COLUMN

DON'T RELY ON RATINGS FOR GOOD MF RETURNS

Mutual fund ratings are dynamic; opt for basket of investments



S KALYANASUNDARAM

Mr Anand works for a company and to reduce his income tax liability, he wanted to invest in the Equity Linked Savings Scheme (ELSS). Instead of investing through a Mutual Fund advisor, he did his own ground work based on the ratings available.

During the beginning of this year he invested in Axis Long Term Equity Fund (G) and DSP Tax saver fund (G), as these had five star ratings from a reputed financial newspaper research team. But to his surprise now he has found out that the same research team has now reassigned three star rating to Axis Long Term Equity Fund (G) and four star rating to DSP Tax saver fund.

As the schemes have a lock-in period of three years, there is no way that he can change his investment. Every mutual fund comes in two versions – direct version and regular version. One of the key distinctions between them is that regular mutual funds have a distribution commission unlike direct mutual funds. This makes the expense ratio higher for regular funds. Hence, the return to the investor on direct investment may be more.



Generally, many investors go by the rating provided to different mutual fund schemes and invest under direct schemes. While making investment under direct equity, it is possible for any individual to depend on the fundamental factors of the company and also technical analysis available and one can select the company based on risk perception and return expectation. But coming to mutual fund schemes, though broad investment philosophy and benchmarking are available, there is no definite way to know the contour of investment in future.

Hence, individual investors depend on the ratings provided by different rating agencies. From the past experience, it seems that one can't decide solely based on the ratings available.

Rating organisations like CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, and Value Research generally provide ratings for mutual fund schemes in India. There are business newspapers like the Hindu Business Line, which provide their own ratings based on their in-house research.

Rating methodology Mutual funds are rated mostly on the performance of the funds over different periods. The ratings also take into account the fundamentals of the fund houses, asset allocation of a scheme, the experience and credentials of a fund manager, returns based on inflation, besides several other parameters.

For example, CRISIL considers the following in its ranking methodology: Portfolio Concentration Analysis, Liquidity Analysis, Mean Return and Volatility Active Returns (the active returns are the percentage of loss or profits made by an investment portfolio as a result of active investment decisions by the fund manager).

Scales of one to five stars are decided on the basis of percentile in which the funds are placed in the order. Generally, five-star is assigned to top 10 per cent funds and the bottom 10 per cent is given one-star rating.

Any investment should be based on one's risk bearing capacity. Higher the risk, higher will be the potential return on investment. In turn, mutual fund schemes can have different investment philosophies and different asset allocation based on the investors' risk perception and return expectation.

As the mutual fund investment spreads to different stocks and debt instruments, there is no easy way to predict future performance. Rating is not an impediment for any fund to perform and it is always possible that poor-rated funds may perform better.

However, a poor rating may disturb the mobilisation for a particular Mutual fund scheme, and indirectly affect its working, as the mutual fund scheme may not have the advantage of size of investment and diversification.

(The author is a financial analyst.)

Impart knowledge with holistic education

Re-organisation of teachers' training is a must for the success of National Education Policy 2020



BKP SINHA

Nelson Mandela has rightly said that "education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world". It is a stairway to the growth and development of humankind. The right to education must be universal so that everyone can pursue prospects of a better future. However, the right to education is not only the right to access education. It's also about receiving a quality education.

Quality education is of paramount importance in today's complex and fast-changing environment. It fosters the knowledge, skills and values required to create a fairer and more sustainable world. According to 'Education International and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development', quality education "is one that focuses on the child's overall development - social, emotional, mental, physical and cognitive, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or geographic location". Its goal is to prepare students for the challenges they are likely to face later in their lives.

We now realize that education alone will not lead to a sustainable future, therefore, learning about sustainable development (SD) is necessary. Target 4.7 in the 2030 Agenda for SD emphasizes the importance of transformative education that promotes global citizenship, sustainable development, human rights, gender equality, peace and cultural diversity.

The Brundtland Report coined the term "Sustainable Development" and defined it as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs".

It is a holistic approach and is often depicted as three overlapping circles: ecological, social and economic. It demonstrates the interplay of all parts of life and the need for their equal consideration to find lasting prosperity. But we generally have a unidirectional approach towards sustainability based on our predisposition, for example from an ecological, economic or social viewpoint, which often results in trade-offs.

The interconnected nature of the challenges the world faces today cannot be understood in isolation. For instance, every year, climate change like extreme weather events and rising sea levels force millions of people to flee their homes. This results in climate refugees and a rise in poverty. As climate change and poverty are inextricably linked, one cannot be solved without addressing the other.

To comprehend basic principles of ecology, one must think holistically about relationships, connectedness and context to realize the intricate interdependence and often unpredictable dynamics of ecological, social, and economic systems. This shift of focus from analytical thinking (parts) to contextual thinking (whole) is a prerequisite for building a more resilient world, ensuring systemic decision and policy



SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF NEP 2020 LARGELY DEPENDS ON THE GOOD SPIRIT AND RIGHT INTENTIONS OF THE POLICY MAKERS WHICH WILL NOT ONLY DIVERSIFY INDIA'S GLOBAL IMAGE BUT ALSO MAKE THE EDUCATION SYSTEM AT PAR WITH THE BEST IN THE WORLD

(The author is a retired IFS officer.)



making. It is regarded as a critical ability in education, as it enables students to untangle and work within the complexities of life on Earth.

Integration of education for sustainable development (ESD) into teaching and learning can help in the realization of quality education, which is critical to fulfilling many of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) such as breaking the cycle of poverty, reducing inequalities, achieving gender equality and improving agricultural productivity. It is also essential for addressing other key issues, including wasteful consumption, biodiversity conservation, natural resource use, climate change, energy, freshwater, health, sanitation and waste management.

ESD is an interdisciplinary field that integrates concepts from multiple disciplines to understand how natural and man-made processes interact with each other and ultimately affect the various biomes on the planet. Its goal is to discover novel and sustainable ways of living and managing natural resources to protect vital ecological systems and enhance long-term prospects for human prosperity.

Adopting a wide range of participatory methodologies in education, such as problem-based and project-based learning are essential to change the behaviours and equip the current and future generations with the knowledge and skills they need to shape a sustainable future. These methodologies will allow them to develop problem-solving, interdisciplinary and systemic thinking skills, which will help them learn 'how to think' rather than 'what to think' within the context of sustainability.

Our sustainable future requires societies and countries to work

together, hence, it advocates the use of collaborative learning at all stages of education. In collaborative learning, students in small groups work together on a common goal to seek understanding and solutions. It fulfills the primary purpose of education - nurturing responsible citizens who can work together to solve complex ecological, social and economic issues.

Thus, working on collaborative learning projects at an early age can boost confidence and help in developing critical thinking, positive interdependence, diverse understanding along with various other social skills such as leadership, decision-making, communication, trust-building, conflict management and a sense of ownership.

Educational institutions also need to partner with multiple stakeholders and various other sectors such as economics, environment, etc., to take up co-learning. It will facilitate students to engage with real-life issues and gain the practical knowledge and skills needed to build long-term sustainable solutions.

Conventionally, ESD has been considered a separate component within the educational systems. However, over the past few years, it has been argued that it should be integrated into mainstream disciplines at all levels, settings, and types (informal, formal, non-formal) of education. This requires a systemic change in all kinds of textbooks, including science, math, social sciences, humanities, etc. It also requires significant reforms in the educational system, including strengthening curricula, cognitive and non-cognitive elements, transforming learning environments, establishing diverse part-

nerships, providing teacher training, creating local learning opportunities, and implementing innovative pedagogies.

Teaching ESD requires knowledge of several disciplines that is generally beyond teachers' expertise. Reforms of this magnitude, however, will not be possible without effective policies, operational frameworks, political will, financial assistance and stakeholders' cooperation.

National Education Policy 2020 is the first education policy of the 21st century, which aims to align the education system with SDGs and make education holistic, inclusive, multidisciplinary, learner-centric, inquiry-driven and experiential which can transform India into a vibrant knowledge-based society and global knowledge superpower.

Our collective responsibility to improve the quality of education is essential for achieving the ambitions of 'Agenda 2030' and ensuring continuity in the quality of human life. Governments, teachers, educational institutions and stakeholders have a vanguard role to play, along with parents and students themselves. However, we stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road - the one less traveled by - offers the last and our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

WE FACE THE CHALLENGES OF CORRUPTION AND 'PARIWARVAAD'... WE NEED TO RAISE AWARENESS AGAINST 'PARIWARVAAD' —PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



I WON'T MAKE A COMMENT ON THESE THINGS. (CORRUPTION & PARIWARVAAD OR NEPOTISM'), TODAY. —CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI

E-two wheelers can cut carbon emissions in a big way

Two-wheelers, which are prominent polluters, need to go electric to cut down on emissions substantially

Air pollution is harming the health of around 1.3 billion people in the vulnerable areas of India where an average particulate matter concentration was 73ug/m3, far-exceeding the WHO's standard prescribed limit of 5ug/m3, catalysing the levels of carbonization. India is witnessing rapid rise of two-wheelers, representing about 76 per cent of the total, which is over 210 million. Nearly 60,000 two-wheelers per day are being registered in India, consuming 61 per cent of total sale of petrol.

The two-wheelers account for almost 20 per cent of the total carbon dioxide emissions and 30 per cent of the particulate emissions in urban areas. The worst sufferers are the vulnerable sections of society such as growing children, expectant-



PRITAM SINGH

mothers, elderly people and patients having lung problems.

The latest research studies of Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago observed that "at the current pollution levels about 510 million people who live in northern India, representing nearly 40 per cent of India's population, are on-track to lose 7.6 years of their lives on an average".

However, by all out efforts like two wheelers e-mobility and gradual phasing out of 'Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) based tail pipe emitters' for mitigating the pollution levels to the WHO's prescribed levels would mean that an estimated 240 million people in the north Indian state - Uttar Pradesh - would gain about 10 years in life-expectancy.

Two wheelers pollute more,

having cascading impact in urban areas to an overall particulate matter concentration, observed to be the highest in the world.

On an average, each two-wheeler enriches greenhouse gases by adding around 300 gms/km of carbon dioxide, besides (as per Bharat Stage-IV standard prescribed limits under standardized conditions) remarkable quantities of pollutants like (1.50 gm/km) carbon monoxide (known as silent killer) and (1.50 gm/km) hydrocarbons plus oxide of nitrogen, etc.

These standard limits normally exceeded because of factors like driving in frequent traffic jams, road conditions, fuel quality, local environmental conditions, etc.

Assuming broadly, around

75 million two-wheelers, having an average of about 250 km/month pacing on the road, will collectively translate around 75m tonnes/year of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, entailing emission of dreaded particulate matter.

The world's fourth largest energy hungry India (yet behind China, US and the European Union), will according to IEA's forecast will become the third largest consumer, overlapping European Union by 2030. Though indeed it is a Herculean task to achieve the set goal of IPCC by 2030, it is certainly not impossible.

Realizing impending threat to economies, India's vehicular transportation scenario is set to have a 'sea change' as the Government's think tank - National Institute for

Transforming India - NITI Aayog is chalking out a slew of progressive set targets to mitigate and eliminate pollution by pushing the ambitious plans of electrifying two-wheelers and gradually phasing out the sale of 'ICE-based tail pipe emitters'.

The government's well set delineations with full support of corporates will undergo a sea change by 2030 with e-mobility as preferred mode of transport by having an ambitious plan of electrifying around 80 per cent, say close to 54.4 million two-wheelers with eco-friendly alluring all segments of e-two wheelers and setting up gigantic chain of about 6K-charging stations in the nook and corner, will certainly enable to get rid of routinely lining-up at petrol pumps.

Currently, to fill the gasoline

tank of a bike of 11 litre, it costs about Rs 1100. So, this means that a e-two wheeler owner can get a full charge for less than that of the cost of one-litre of gasoline, with no tail-pipe emission, no tormenting exhaust noise, i.e., noise pollution, comparatively at much less maintenance cost to govern mere 20-25 moving parts in the vehicle's assembly in comparison to about 2000 parts in the ICV gasoline based two-wheelers..

In the race of new technologies, India is not lagging behind and gradually unveiling its plans on the befitting occasions for widespread application of fuel-cell technology as 'new medium of energy', replacing fossil fuels in public and private transport systems, railways, power generation, data processing stations, etc.

It is high time not to miss an opportunity to preserve the environment and warrants more initiatives with individual approach too. An earlier census had reported that mere 30 per cent of the trips to work are made on foot and 17 per cent by bicycle. Besides the government initiatives, here the powerful media must shoulder its responsibility to play its more constructive role for mitigating vehicular pollution in cities and make aware the public about the grim picture of vehicular pollution in the years to come. Spreading the mission of greenery all around and prefer trips to work on foot in urban areas on the lines of smartly populated cities like Surat and Bangalore, will bear fruits for morrow-generations.

Opp raps PM over rape convicts' release

Real face of BJP's India visible after big speech on 'Nari Shakti': Opp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Tuesday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the release of 11 people convicted for rape and murder in the Bilkis Bano case of the 2002 Gujarat riots within hours of his praise for "Nari Shakti" in his Independence Day speech and said this is the "real face" of New India under the BJP.

The attack by the opposition parties came a day after the BJP-led Gujarat Government released the convicts, serving life imprisonment for the gang



rape of a pregnant Bilkis Bano and murder of seven of her family, under its remission policy. The convicts, who were also charged with killing the pregnant Muslim woman's three-year-old daughter, were welcomed with sweets and garlands outside the jail.

Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said Prime Minister Modi should tell the country if he himself believed in his words when he spoke about the safety, respect and

empowerment of women.

"The BJP Government in Gujarat released 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gang rape case. This decision brings out the BJP Government's mindset," he said at AICC Press briefing.

The party also referred to the Kathua and Unnao cases and said it embarrasses everyone in politics when office-bearers and supporters of a national political party are seen taking out a rally in favour of rapists on the streets.

"Yesterday, from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the Prime Minister spoke big things about women's safety, women's power, women's respect. A few hours later Gujarat government released those behind rape.

We also saw that convicts in rape who were released are being honoured. Is this Amrit Mahotsav," Khera said.

Shiv Sena leader and a Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi reminded the fact that guidelines on prisoner release stipulates that rape convicted aren't eligible for remission.

"nari Shakti. Not," she tweeted while taking a swipe on Modi's Independence Day speech.

While CPI(M) also strongly condemned the release of the convicts, saying "this is the real face of New India — convicted killers and rapists released" and activist Teesta Setalvad "who fought for justice was jailed", Trinamool Congress

spokesperson Saket Gokhale said Bilkis Bano was "raped in the 2002 Gujarat pogrom and her entire family was murdered and buried in a mass grave".

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi also targeted Prime Minister Modi over their release.

In his Independence Day speech, Modi had asked Indians to take a pledge not to do anything that lowers dignity of women, Owaisi said.

"He said something about supporting 'Nari Shakti'. Gujarat BJP Govt released criminals convicted of gang rape on the same day. The message is clear," Owaisi tweeted.

Bahujan Samaj Party MP Danish Ali also referred to Prime Minister's remarks and said release of 11 convicts has exposed huge gap between words and the spirit of justice. "The world is watching but who cares in 'New India'?" he tweeted.

Ayushman funds will be allocated based on States' performance: NHA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI



The National Health Authority (NHA) on Tuesday announced that funds will be allocated to States and Union Territories for implementation of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) based on their performance in registering healthcare professionals and health facilities.

The funds will be allocated on their performance in recording data in the Health Facility Registry (HFR) and Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), which it said, were the key pillars of ABDM.

This performance-based fund allocation will help in structured implementation of ABDM at the state and UT level, with verified entries strengthening the key national registries being built under the scheme, an NHA statement said.

According to NHA's earlier guidelines, ₹500 crores had been demarcated for setting up of ABDM offices at state and UT level over a period of five years (FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26). Twenty percent of these funds, — ₹100 crores were earmarked as incentive-based funds, the statement said.

Taking this thought further, the NHA decided to extend the current fund allo-

cation based on the performance of respective states and UTs in terms of number of entities (healthcare professionals like doctors, nurses etc and health facilities like hospitals, clinics) that they register and verify within a stipulated period, the statement said.

The population of Health Facility Registry (HFR) and Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), which it said, were the key pillars of ABDM.

In accordance, the NHA has defined parameters for fund allocation as ₹100 for each verified entries in HFR and HPR till December 31, 2022, ₹50 for each verified entries in HFR and HPR between January 1, 2023 till March 31, 2023, the statement said.

No funds will be allocated for entries verified in HFR and HPR after March 31, 2023 and states and UTs are at liberty to use these funds for deploying human resources full time or part time for ABDM, the statement said.

Also, to further promote the digital health ecosystem, the NHA will recognise the best

performing states, union territories, districts, health facilities and integrators under its flagship scheme Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

Since its nationwide launch in September 2021, Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) has achieved significant growth with over 23 crore ABHA numbers (earlier known as Health ID), 1.14 Lakh health facilities registered in the Health Facility Registry (HFR), an official from the NHA said.

Besides, 33 thousand healthcare professionals have been registered under the Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR), 6.6 lakh ABHA apps have been downloaded and 3.4 Lakh health records have been linked to ABHA of individuals, he said.

"With more individuals, healthcare professionals like doctors, nurses, paramedics and health facilities like hospitals, nursing homes, wellness centres, clinics, diagnostic labs, pharmacies joining ABDM, digitisation of health records at their point of creation is now possible," the official said.

SKM opposes MSP panel's Aug 22 meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), an umbrella organisation of over 40 farm unions, on Tuesday, opposed the upcoming meeting of the committee on Minimum Support Price (MSP) next week, calling the panel a "farce" and said nothing conclusive will come out of the talks. The first meeting of the MSP committee's first meeting is likely to be held on August 22 to discuss future strategies.

SKM leader Hannan Mollah rejected the government's suggestion and said that the farm organisation is deciding on the future course of action. "We have already rejected the panel and we have clearly said that we will not be participating in the talks. So there is no question of participating in the upcoming meeting," Mollah said.

"The government has inducted some so-called farmer leaders in the panel who didn't have anything to do with our agitation against the three farm laws at the Delhi borders," he said. "We will decide on the further course of action and decide how we will hold demonstrations against the farm laws," he added. Darshan Pal, another farmer leader, said that the farm organisation will decide the future course of action after a 75-hour protest in UP's Lakhimpur against the 2021

violence case. "We are not lending any support to the anti-farmer panel. Our protest is going on as the Centre is renegeing on its promises made last year.

"We are also demanding the withdrawal of cases registered against farmers during the anti-farm laws protest last year, compensation to the families of farmers who lost their lives during the stir," Pal said.

The committee on MSP is scheduled to hold its first meeting on August 22 to discuss future strategies. Sources in the Ministry of Agriculture said that the meeting is likely to be held at 10.30 am at the National Agriculture Science Complex (NASC) in the national capital.

In the first meeting, sources said committee will introduce members, deliberate on "future strategies" and discuss setting up sub-panels to cover wide issues mentioned in terms of reference. The government is persuading SKM to take part in proceedings of committee.

It needs to be seen if it will change its mind and nominate three representatives, as is required under the deal. The committee, headed by former agriculture secretary Sanjay Agrawal, was constituted on July 18 to "promote zero budget based farming," to change crop patterns keeping in mind the changing needs of the country, and to make MSP more "effective and transparent."

No merit in plea alleging attacks on Christians, Centre tells SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday told the Supreme Court there is no merit in the plea alleging increasing attacks on Christians in India and the petitioner has "resorted to falsehood and self-serving documents" along with press reports which have misrepresented such incidents.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in an affidavit said that as per the inputs it has received, a majority of the incidents cited by the petitioner as attack on Christians were wrongfully projected in news reports.

The petition was filed by a Christian priest Rev. Peter Machado and others seeking to implement guidelines issued by the Supreme Court in 2018 on hate crime cases.

"The petitioners claimed to have based petition on information gathered through sources like press reports (The Wire, The Scroll, Hindustan Times, Dainik Bhaskar, etc.), "independent" online databases and from findings of various non-profit organisations. It is submitted that enquiries reveal that a majority of incidents alleged as Christian persecution in these reports were either false or wrongfully projected," the affidavit said. In some cases, incidents of purely criminal nature and arising out of personal issues, are categorised.

Why recover service charges as additional levy: HC to restaurants

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday questioned why restaurants should recover service charges from consumers as an "additional" and "separate levy." A bench headed by Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad remarked that a common man perceives service charge as a Government levy and restaurants can increase their food prices to absorb this charge instead of recovering it in the form of an additional charge over and above the total bill.

The High Court was hearing an appeal by the Centre against a single judge's order staying its guidelines prohibiting hotels and restaurants from levying service charges automatically on food bills. The next hearing is scheduled on August 18.

Counsel appearing for one of the restaurant associations said that the service charge was not a government levy and it was for the benefit of the restaurant employees and was not a substitute for "tips."

"You increase the salary. We will hear you," stated the court which observed that the levy of service charge was "very much connected with consumers" and not just the employees of the restaurant. "That (service charge as a Government levy) is what a common man perceives. Increase your food price. No problem. Because you are entitled to fix a rate for your food but don't levy it separately," the court told the restaurant associations.

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma, appearing for the Government, said that while the service charge is in the nature of a tip, the impression given to consumers is as if it is a governmental levy or a governmental tax.

"The consumers face embarrassment when they don't pay or they are asked to pay. That is the reason hundreds of complaints were received," he said, adding that the single judge order on the ground that it was passed in violation of principles of natural justice.

In the appeal by the Centre as well as Central Consumer Protection Authority, the appellants said that the guidelines,

Alleged ISIS member sent to judicial custody for 30 days

New Delhi: A special NIA court on Tuesday remanded Mohsin Ahmad, an alleged active member of Islamist terror group ISIS, to judicial custody for 30 days.

A student of Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia, Ahmad was arrested on August 6 for being an active member of the terror group and for collecting funds from sympathisers in India and overseas. He was produced before the court on Tuesday at the end of his NIA remand following which he was sent to judicial custody. Following his arrest earlier this month, the NIA said that Ahmad, 22, was sending the collected funds to Syria and other places via cryptocurrency. Originally hailing from

Patna, Ahmad was living in the Batla House area of the national capital and was a second-year student of electrical engineering at Jamia.

The "radicalised" individual Mohsin Ahmad, hailing from Patna, was collecting funds for the global terror group and was arrested during searches here in connection with the ISIS module case, the NIA had said after his arrest.

His arrest followed after the NIA searched his residential premises here. Before his arrest, he was residing at F-18/27, Japni Gali, Jogabai Extension, Batla house, New Delhi and is a permanent resident of New colony, ITI women, Digha, Dinapur cum Khagaul, Patna, Bihar.

IN SHORTS

₹30K CR SANCTIONED FOR CLEANING GANGA PROJES



New Delhi: More than Rs 30,000 crore has been sanctioned for projects aimed at cleaning Ganga and its tributaries, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Tuesday. Emphasizing on the importance of limited water resources, Shekhawat said the very beginning of economic development is "our water resource and energy".

SC TO CONSIDER MEDIATION PLEA OF SPICEJET-MARAN

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would consider a joint request for mediation of low-cost airline SpiceJet and media baron Kalanithi Maran and his Kal Airways for amicably settling all pending disputes between them including the row over the share-transfer issue.

SC SEEKS REPLY IN PLEA ON POST-POLL VIOLENCE PROBE

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted four weeks to the Centre and the West Bengal Government to file their response on a plea seeking a court-monitored SIT probe into post-poll violence in West Bengal in 2021.

SC TO LIST NEXT WEEK UNNAO RAPE VICTIM PLEA

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to list next week for hearing a plea of the Unnao rape survivor seeking transfer of a criminal case filed by the father of one of the accused in her sexual assault case from a trial court in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi.

CHARGE SHEET FILED ON ABUSE OF 3 CHILDREN

New Delhi: The CBI on Tuesday filed a charge sheet against four people, including the mastermind and a railway loco pilot posted in Rourkela, for alleged sexual abuse of three children aged 9 to 12 years over three years

APP FOCUSING COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHED

New Delhi: Union Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar on Tuesday launched a mobile application on parenting which focuses on cognitive developments of children in the first two years. The first 1000 days establish a solid platform for a child's physical, mental, emotional, cognitive and social health, Pawar said.

SC SEEKS KERALA REPLY ON REGULATION OF LOTTERIES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought a response from the Kerala Government on an appeal filed by Nagaland challenging the Kerala High Court's order which upheld State Government's power to regulate lotteries from other States.

Rajnath strongly pitches for reform of United Nations

PTI | NEW DELHI

The potential geopolitical fault line in the maritime domain in East Asia could be "graver" than what is being witnessed, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday, amid escalating tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

In a virtual address at the Moscow Conference on International Security, Singh also strongly pitched for reform of the United Nations (UN), saying the global body may progressively lose its effectiveness without democratisation in its decision-making.

The defence minister said the refusal of major powers to change UN institutions in tune with time ignores the emerging geo-political realities and economic and technological progress that has happened since 1945. "Global security in the framework of multilateralism requires abiding by the UN charter and principles of international law, which act as a bulwark against anarchy, instability and higher chances of conflict," Singh said.

He observed that the UN can deliver effective solutions only if it gives a voice to the entire world rather than "zealously guarding the status quo".

"Conflicts could seriously jeopardise political and economic stability and development efforts. For example, the potential geopolitical fault line in the maritime domain — particularly in East Asia — could be graver than what we are witnessing today," Singh said.



The maritime zones in East Asia have been witnessing rising unease largely because of China's aggressive military posturing.

The Chinese military has been carrying out large-scale military drills around the Taiwan Strait following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's recent visit to Taipei.

"As a nation central to the Indian Ocean, India is committed to a free, open, secure and inclusive Indo-Pacific region that promotes sustainable maritime trade and economic practices, resilient infrastructure and adherence to global legal order," Singh said.

He said India's resolution of maritime border issues with neighbours as per international law and its focus on regional maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean bear testimony to the value that India places on multilateralism.

"Multilaterally or through partnership with willing nations, India will continue contributing to a positive and constructive agenda that seeks to address contemporary global priorities," Singh said. The defence minister said India's active participation in the Shanghai

Cooperation Organization (SCO) is manifest of one such priority in pursuit of peace, stability and prosperity in Eurasia, of which India is an "inalienable part".

"A faith in global conventions and regulations and a multilateral, dispassionate approach overcoming isolation, unilateralism and temptation of temporary gains, can usher us into an era of genuine multilateralism," he said.

The defence minister noted that the UN has given a platform for global progress in a number of areas, but clearly there is a "crisis of confidence" today in the UN system.

"While the UN has addressed most of these issues somewhat partially and intermittently, our collective effort has nonetheless fallen short in providing effective and enduring solutions, particularly due to the infirmities within the multilateral system," he said.

"Several contemporary global challenges have come to the fore such as terrorism, radicalism, climate change, growing asymmetric threats, disruptive role of non-state actors and the intensifying geopolitical competition, all of which call for a robust multilateral response," he added.

Singh said this "worrying shortcoming" of UN system is manifestation of its structural inadequacy. "Without comprehensive reforms of UN structure and without democratisation in decision-making, the UN might progressively lose its effectiveness and relevance," he observed.

Rajnath hands over desi def equipment to Army

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the armed forces for opting for self-reliance in defence manufacturing, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday handed over indigenously developed equipment and systems to the Indian Army here.

State-of-the-art high mobility Infantry Protected Vehicles and Assault Boats were virtually handed over by Rajnath enabling the troops deployed along the Ladakh border to respond to any challenge in a befitting manner.

The Landing Craft Assault (LCA) can carry 30 troops and is now deployed at the Pangong Tso(lake)in Ladakh. The lake saw the first face-off in 2020 between India and China snowballing into

tension at several points on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). At present, the boats operating in the lake have limited capabilities. The LCA is much more versatile and has overcome the limitations of launch, speed and capacity. It has enhanced the capability to operate across the water obstacles in Eastern Ladakh. LCA has been indigenously developed by Aquarius Shipyard Limited, Goa.

The other systems handed over to the army include Future Infantry Soldier as a System (F-INSAS) like AK-203 assault rifles, new generation anti-personnel mine 'Nipun', rugged and automatic communication system with enhanced capabilities, upgraded sights system for tanks and advanced thermal imagers. The equipment and systems have been jointly developed by Indian Army in collaboration with Defence

Public Sector Undertakings, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the industry, in line with the Prime Minister vision to modernise the Armed Forces, under the 'Aatmanirbharta Bharat Abhiyan'. Rajnath exuded confidence that the equipment and systems will enhance the operational preparedness of the Indian Army and increase their efficiency.

The weapons given to the Army include modern state of art AK-203 assault rifle along with day and night holographic and reflex sights. The sights are mounted on the weapon and also on helmet to enable a 360-degree visibility and accuracy in operational conditions.

In addition to the primary weapon system, the soldiers will also be kitted with multi-mode hand grenade which has

also been procured indigenously along with multi-purpose knife. The second sub system is protection system. This gives protection through a specially designed helmet and a bullet proof jacket. The third sub system consists of communication and surveillance system. This F-INSAS system is capable of further upgradation by incorporating real time data connectivity.

As regards anti-personnel mine Nipun, for a long time, the Indian Army has been using vintage NMM 14 mines. With the efforts of Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune and the Indian industry, a new Indian mine named 'Nipun' has been developed. It will enhance the protection provided to the troops on borders. The mine is more potent and effective than existing anti-personnel mine.



Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's daughter Namita and her husband Ranjan Bhattacharya pay tribute to him on his death anniversary, at Sadaiva Atal in New Delhi on Tuesday

Min appeals to public to take part in NCERT survey

New Delhi: Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday appealed to the public to participate in a citizen survey being conducted by NCERT for development of a new National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for school education. NCF serves as a guideline for designing syllabus and textbooks and for teaching practices in the country.

There are a total 10 questions in the digital survey with each of them having five options. The queries include how to make education futuristic and skill oriented and improve the dignity of teachers in country. The minister said that "development of a vibrant, dynamic, inclusive and futuristic National Curriculum Framework is essential for integrating cultural-rootedness along with global outlook, freeing education from the colonial hangover and instilling a deeper sense of pride

in our next generations". "I appeal to all citizens to participate in Citizen Survey for NCF for developing #NayeBharatKa NayaCurriculum. A dynamic National Curriculum Framework in line with the NEP 2020 will play a major role in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat," Pradhan said in a series of tweets.

The Digital Survey for National Curriculum (DiSaNC) is being conducted by education ministry and National Council of Education and Research Training (NCERT) as part of public consultation process for formulation of NCF.

The other questions in survey are pertaining to people's opinion on values that need to be imbibed in children in course of school education, languages they should learn from class 1 onwards and parents' envision of teachers' role in holistic development of children. PMS

Mumbai cops seize 513 kg party drug worth ₹1,026 cr from Guj

T N RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI



In a second major drug haul in less than a fortnight, the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) personnel of the Mumbai Police's crime branch have busted a synthetic drug factory at Ankleshwar in adjoining south Gujarat and seized 513 kg of Mephedrone worth Rs.1,026 crore and arrested one person, as part of investigations into an ongoing case.

In the development that came 12 days after they seized more than 700 kg of Mephedrone worth Rs 1,400 crore from a drug manufacturing unit at Nalasopara in Palghar district, the officials from Worli ANC unit raided a synthetic drug factory in Ankleshwar town of Gujarat and seized 513 kg of Mephedrone worth Rs.1,026 crore.

The police also seized 812 kg of white powder and 397 kg of chemicals used to prepare the narcotic drugs from the raided factory at Ankleshwar.

The factory that the Mumbai police raided is situated in the GIDC complex at Panoli in Ankleshwar town.

The police identified as the arrested person as the owner of the drug unit, Giriraj Dixit, who holds a master's degree in Chemistry.

With the latest arrest, the total number of arrests made in the ongoing investigations into what is said to be part of an international drug trafficking racket.

Of the arrested persons, there are six men and one woman. Among them, there are a couple of qualified chemists allegedly carrying out

the mixtures of various chemicals to manufacture the final drugs.

Of the seven arrested persons, five are currently in judicial custody, while the remaining are in police custody.

Acting on a tip-off received from their counterparts at Worli in March this year following the arrest of a drug peddler from Govandi in north-east Mumbai, the ANC officials had on August 3, 2022 raided a drug manufacturing unit located at Nalasopara and recovered Mephedrone worth Rs 1,400 crore. The seized contraband was meant for distribution among drug peddlers in Mumbai and its neighbouring areas.

Mephedrone (MD), also known as M-cat, Meow Meow or White Magic, is a synthetic stimulant drug of Amphetamine class psychoactive characteristics and usually used at rave parties.

This party drug is a psychotropic substance banned under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

(NDPS) Act.

The latest drug haul at Ankleshwar and also the one made on August 3 are the biggest drug hauls made by the city police in recent times. The massive drug seizures are a consequence of earlier raids during which 3.26 kg of Mephedrone worth Rs 4.51 crore from three persons arrested in two separate operations carried on March 29 this year.

Incidentally, the main accused arrested from Nalasopara on August 3 is a post-graduate in organic chemistry and used his knowledge to manufacture synthetic drugs. The modus operandi used by the main accused was to manufacture the drug in the Nalasopara unit and sell it in the open market through his agents and drug peddlers.

The main accused used to sell the drug in bulk quantities weighing more than a minimum of 20 to 25 kg of banned substance. "The accused used social media platforms, calling apps for drug peddling and supply," a senior official said.

CBI expands probe to net kin of Mondal; TMC holds rallies

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■
KOLKATA



After the arrest of Trinamool Congress strongman and party national executive member Anubrata Mondal on cattle smuggling charges, the Central Bureau of Investigation is focusing on the properties owned by his daughter Sukanya Mondal and at least 15 others including police officials and politicians close to the arrested TMC leader.

According to sources Mondal has properties worth several hundred crores in Kolkata and other parts of Bengal. "Very recently the CBI has discovered at least six plots in Birbhum and three apartments at New Town in Kolkata ... This apart from petrol pumps, rice mills stone queries," said sources.

The senior leader known for spreading terror to win elections, has been named in several places in a supplementary chargesheet filed by the CBI in a designated court

in Asansol. The CBI chargesheet was filled after the interrogation of a number of his associates including a police constable and his former security staff Saigal Hussein who too has amassed property worth tens of crores, agency sources said.

"Most of these properties were acquired between 2011 and 2020 ... Out of the cow smuggling money ... In this one Md Latif a marble trader had a big hand ... He was the link man between Saigal Hussein the security officer of Anubrata Mondal and Enamul Haq," the jailed mastermind of cattle smuggling sources said.

Call record details show

that Haq and Hussein had mobile calls as many as 16 times in a matter of a few days. Though Mondal has denied having knowledge of these calls investigators say all conversations took place between him and Haq through Hussein's phone.

Sources also said that Mondal used to get Rs 24 cr a year as protection money for managing the police administration on which he had enormous control by dint of his being the TMC district president.

While Mondal has denied all the allegations the CBI is now "trying to get him from reverse... That is he has been asked to explain the source of his fortune earned after TMC came to power ... Before this he was a small trader," sources said.

Meanwhile, after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee decided to go on the offensive saying she firmly stood by Mondal — a stance she would not take in the case of her arrested Cabinet colleague Partha Chatterjee — the TMC

on Tuesday started 'Khela Hobe' rallies through out the State protesting the BJP Government's alleged partisan ways.

The TMC workers burnt effigies of Suwendu Adhikari on Khela Hobe Diwas on Tuesday demanding his arrest for his alleged involvement in Narada and Sharada chit fund scams. "If the ED, CBI arrest TMC leaders why will they spare

Khela Hobe (game is on) first coined by Mondal allegedly suggesting physical attacks on the Opposition before last year's Assembly elections --- that saw TMC roaring back to power --- had become an instant hit in 2021.

Meanwhile, the Left leadership on Tuesday said that more ministers would come in the ED net thanks to a PIL on disproportionate asset brought in the High Court. The matter is scheduled to be heard early next month. The Court has asked the petitioners to make ED a party to the case.

Reliable dying declaration can be sole basis of conviction: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



A dying declaration can be the sole basis for recording a conviction and a court is required to examine whether it is true and reliable, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday.

The top court also said that a court should also examine whether the dying declaration has been given when the deceased was physically and mentally fit to make the declaration and was not under any tutoring or duress.

In case there are multiple dying declarations and there are inconsistencies between them, the dying declaration recorded by the higher officer like a Magistrate can be relied upon, it said.

The apex court, however, said this is with the condition that there is no circumstance giving rise to any suspicion about its truthfulness.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and P S Narasimha made the observations while

acquiring a man convicted under Section 304-B (dowry death) of the Indian Penal Code.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by a man challenging an order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court which reduced his sentence awarded from 10 years to seven years but concurred with the judgement and order of conviction by the trial court in offence punishable under Section 304B of the IPC.

In the instant case, the deceased had given two dying declarations. In the first one, the woman had said that she consumed a poisonous medicine by mistake. While in the second dying declaration,

the deceased said that her husband, as well as his parents, administered the poisonous substance to her.

The top court said in the present case, it was faced with two dying declarations, which are totally inconsistent and contradictory to each other.

It noted that the second declaration was recorded without there being examined by a doctor concerning the fitness of the deceased to make the statement.

The apex court said the father and sister of the deceased were present in the hospital at the time of the second dying declaration.

"The possibility of the second dying declaration being given after tutoring by her relatives cannot, therefore, be ruled out," the bench said.

"We, therefore, find that in the facts and circumstances of the present case, the first dying declaration will have to be considered to be more reliable and trustworthy as against the second one.

IOA to take call on appeal to SC after mulling HC order on CoA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI



The Indian Olympic Association on Tuesday said it will discuss in detail the Delhi High Court's directive to put the country's apex sports body under a three-member Committee of Administrators before arriving at a decision to approach the Supreme Court.

The IOA officials are expected to meet on Wednesday.

The Delhi High Court directed the setting up of a three-member CoA to take over the affairs of the IOA, saying its "persistent recalcitrance" to comply with the Sports Code made it imperative that its affairs be put in the hands of the committee.

"The IOA members will discuss the High Court judgement in detail and will decide whether to go for an appeal in the Supreme Court," IOA secretary general Rejeev Mehta said.

The CoA comprises former Supreme Court judge Justice Anil R Dave, former

Chief Election Commissioner Dr S Y Quraishi, and former Secretary of Ministry of External Affairs Vikas Swarup. The court directed the executive committee of IOA to forthwith hand over the charge to the newly appointed committee and said that the members of the CoA will be assisted by three eminent sportspersons, namely, Olympic medalist shooter Abhinav Bindra, former long jumper Anju Bobby

George, and archer Bombayla Devi Laishram.

The development comes on a day when the All India Football Federation (AIFF) was banned by the sport's world body FIFA for "third party interference".

In December 2012, the IOA was suspended by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for more than a year due to the presence of tainted officials and government interference.

Following the latest development, another IOC ban looms large over the IOA.

Last month only the IOC had threatened to suspend the IOA if it fails to conduct its elections at the earliest.

The IOA elections were due in December last year but could not be held as per schedule due to amendments in the Constitution.

The IOC had urged the IOA to convene a meeting of its General Assembly and confirm the date of its elections without any delay.

FROM PAGE 1

CHINKS IN NITISH ARMOUR! 5 MLAS, KUSHWAHA ABSENT

Sources said trouble erupted in the RJD, too, after Bhair Birendra, a prominent Yadav leader, was excluded from the list of Ministers at the last minute. Tej Pratap Yadav is also not reportedly happy with his Environment Ministry. He was angling for the Health Ministry.

Nitish expanded his new Cabinet by inducting 31 new Ministers, including a huge contingent of 16 from key ally RJD, taking care to give due representation to all sections of society, including minorities. Some 11 members of the council of Ministers are from Kumar's JD(U), two from Congress and one from ex-CM Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM, besides an Independent.

RJD president Lalu Prasad's elder son a second term MLA Tej Pratap Yadav and heavyweights Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and Bijendra Yadav and Mohd Afaq Alam of the Congress too took oath as Ministers.

Three of the Ministers are women - Sheela Kumari and Leshi Singh (both JD(U) and Anita Devi (RJD). There are altogether seven Yadavs from the RJD, including the two sons of Lalu Prasad, besides Bijendra Yadav of the JD(U).

There are five Muslims in the Cabinet - Zama Khan (JD(U), Mohd Afaq Alam (Congress) and Mohd Shamim, Mohd Israail Mansuri and Shahnawaz Alam (all RJD).

While Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and RJD Kartikeya Singh are Bhumihars, Leshi Singh (JD(U), Sumit Kumar Singh (Independent) and Sudhakar Singh (RJD) are Rajputs. Sanjay Kumar Jha of JD(U) is representative of the Brahmins. Five Dalits - Ashok Choudhary (JD(U), Kumar Sarvajeet and Surendra Ram (RJD), Murari Gautam (Congress) and Santosh Kumar Suman (HAM) have been included in the new Cabinet.

The RJD list is dominated by well-known 'Bahubalis' like Lalit Yadav and Surendra Yadav. Meanwhile, BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Kumar Modi said Kumar has betrayed Tejashwi by keeping Home and Finance portfolios with the JD(U).

The former Dy CM said, "What message does Kumar want to give by keeping people like Surendra Yadav, Ramanand Yadav and Lalit Yadav in the Cabinet? Kumar cleverly kept both Home and Finance portfolios with JD(U) and betrayed Tejashwi too."

Taking to Twitter, Modi said 13 Ministers from Muslim-Yadav combi-

nation have been inducted into the Cabinet while there is no Teli, Kanyakubj, Kayasth and Kanu.

"Bihar Cabinet Expansion 13 Ministers from MY combination (33%). Lalit Yadav, Surender Yadav, Ramanand Yadav, Kartik Kumar are known Bahubali. No Teli, Kanyakubj, Kayasth, Kanu. The Bjp made EBC as Dy CM," he tweeted.

TALAQ-E-HASAN NOT AKIN TO TRIPLE TALAQ, WOMEN ALSO HAVE OPTION OF KHULA: SC

Senior advocate Pinky Anand, appearing for the petitioner Benazer Heena, submitted that though the apex court has declared triple talaq unconstitutional, it left the issue of Talaq-E-Hasan undecided.

The top court asked Anand to seek instructions whether in view of the allegation of the irrevocable breakdown of marriage, would the petitioner be willing for settlement by process of divorce on the amount being paid over and above 'mehar'. It also told the petitioner that dissolution of marriage is also possible without the intervention of this court through 'mubarat' and asked her counsel to seek instructions. The apex court will now hear the matter on August 29.

In Talaq-e-Hasan, divorce gets formalised after the third utterance in the third month if cohabitation is not resumed during this period. However, if cohabitation resumes after the first or second utterance of talaq, the parties are assumed to have reconciled and the first or second utterances of talaq are deemed invalid.

CHINESE 'SPY SHIP' DOCKS, LANKAN PREZ TRIES TO ALLAY INDIA'S FEARS

The Chinese ship was earlier scheduled to arrive on August 11 but was delayed after Sri Lanka asked China to defer its arrival. On Saturday, however, Sri Lanka gave permission for the ship to drop anchor on August 16. China had blamed India for pressuring Sri Lanka for deferring the arrival. India has rejected the "insinuations".

Sri Lanka said the security clearance was granted from the Ministry of Defence for the visit of the vessel for replenishment purposes during the stipulated period.

It said no rotation of personnel

would take place during the call and the Sri Lankan Government was requested to provide the necessary assistance by the Chinese embassy in Colombo.

The security and cooperation in the neighbourhood are of utmost priority in handling the issue of the Chinese vessel "Wang Yang 5", the Foreign Ministry here said in a statement.

Given India's apprehensions about the ship, the Sri Lankan Government held consultations at a high-level through diplomatic channels with all parties concerned, with a view to resolving the matter in a spirit of friendship, mutual trust and constructive dialogue, the Foreign Ministry said.

In light of concerns raised, the Ministry also sought further information and material that could assist in consultations on the matter, the statement said.

China's envoy Qi Zhenhong, in Colombo played down the controversy surrounding the arrival of the ship, and termed such visits "very natural". He was present at the port to welcome the ship. Several Parliamentarians from the breakaway group of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna party were also present. Incidentally, Sri Lankan Government has leased out the strategically important port for 99 years to China in 2017.

"This kind of research ship visiting Sri Lanka is very natural. In 2014 a similar ship came here," the Chinese envoy told reporters when asked about the visit. Asked about the Indian concerns, the Ambassador said, "I don't know, you should ask the Indian friends."

The ship maintained a very strict security operation with no one being allowed on board. There was no customary military band to welcome the ship.

Commenting on the ship's arrival, the Cabinet spokesman Bandula Gunawardena said the issue was settled amicably. "Relations with all countries are important to us," Gunawardena said.

The security and cooperation in the neighborhood are of utmost priority in handling the issue of the Chinese vessel Wang Yang 5, the Foreign Ministry here said in a statement.

Sri Lanka's Tamil Progressive Alliance (TPA) Leader and Colombo's Member of Parliament, Mano Ganesan, in a statement said, "Chinese (spy) vessel coming to Lankan waters is simply wrong. China is far away. India is close to us here. Indian state considering this as a challenge to its national security is very reasonable. Besides, India is the

country which has provided near USD 4 billion to us in our time of crisis."

India has traditionally taken a stern view of Chinese military vessels in the Indian Ocean and has protested such visits with Sri Lanka in the past.

The ties between India and Sri Lanka had come under strain after Colombo permitted a Chinese nuclear-powered submarine to dock in one of its ports in 2014.

China is the main creditor of Sri Lanka with investment in infrastructure. Debt restructuring of Chinese loans would be key to the island's success in the ongoing talks with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout.

India on the other hand has been Sri Lanka's lifeline in the ongoing economic crisis. India has been at the forefront of extending economic assistance of nearly USD 4 billion to Sri Lanka during the year as the island nation is grappling with the worst economic crisis since independence in 1948.

Since 2020, at least 50 Chinese research vessels have been spotted in the Indian Ocean region and sources said at any given time now four to five such spy ships are in the area.

TERROR HITS KASHMIRI PANDITS AGAIN; 1 KILLED, ANOTHER HURT

The fresh killing of a member belonging to the minority community has once again sparked off angry reactions from all quarters. Under these circumstances uncertainty writ large over the return of the Kashmiri migrant employees, sitting on dharna in support of their single point demand of relocation to safer areas outside the Kashmir valley since May 10. Since January 2020, around 14 Kashmiri pandits have been targeted by the terrorists across different parts of the Kashmir valley to terrorise them and drive them away.

Local Kashmiri pandit residents and close relatives of the deceased family vent their ire against the local administration for ignoring their security and not providing adequate security cover to protect them or prevent such targeted killings. As the mortal remains of the deceased Sunil Kumar Bhat were shifted to his native village, mourners gathered from the nearby villages joined the last journey. Senior officers who arrived there to offer condolence faced the brunt of the angry relatives. "Last time when my brother was targeted by the terrorists we visited the offices of the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and

Deputy Commissioner Shopian to ensure safety of the members belonging to the minority community." "But instead of paying attention to our passionate appeals the senior officers looked the other way claiming they cannot do much in this regard. They only advised us to stay indoors and directed us to restrict our movement".

Meanwhile, the Kashmiri Pandit Sangharash Samiti (KPSS) has asked the community members to leave the valley in wake of the increased attacks on them by the terrorists.

"With another deadly attack on Kashmiri pandits in Kashmir, the terrorists have made it clear that they are going to kill all the Kashmiri pandits in Kashmir valley," KPSS chief Sanjay Tickoo said in a written statement.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and political leaders of various parties have condemned the killing in Shopian district. "Pained beyond words on the despicable terror attack on civilians in Shopian. My thoughts are with the family of Sunil Kumar. Praying for a speedy recovery of the injured. The attack deserves the strongest condemnation from everyone. Terrorists responsible for the barbaric act will not be spared," Sinha tweeted.

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah also condemned the killing. "Terribly sad news from South Kashmir today. An accident and a militant attack have left a trail of death and suffering. I condemn the militant attack in Shopian unequivocally in which Sunil Kumar was killed and Pinto Kumar injured. My condolences to the family," he said.

J&K BJP Chief Ravinder Raina in a statement said, "The coward Pakistani terrorists targeted the members of the minority community in the South Kashmir district of Shopian. The two Kashmiri brothers, Sunil Kumar Bhat and Pinto Kumar were targeted by them. Pakistan wants bloodbath in the Kashmir valley, The Pakistani terrorists are the enemies of the people of Kashmir. We will not allow Pakistan to fulfil its nefarious designs. All those involved in the attack will be taken to task and punished.

PDP Chief and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti tweeted, "Terribly sorry to hear about the targeted killing in Shopian. Condolences to the deceased's family. GOI continues to behave like an ostrich with its head buried deep under the sand. Every resident of J&K has become cannon fodder in Delhi's quest for 'manufactured normalcy'."

People's Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone condemned the attack as a "heinous act of violence" and expressed his condolences to the family of the victims.

FIFA SUSPENDS INDIA, STOPS IT FROM HOSTING U-17 WOMEN'S CUP

In a statement, the FIFA also said it wants the AIFF administration to "be fully in charge of the AIFF's daily affairs".

"The suspension will be lifted once an order to set up a committee of administrators to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee has been repealed and the AIFF administration regains full control of the AIFF's daily affairs."

"The suspension means that the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 scheduled to take place in India on 11-30 October 2022, cannot currently be held in India as planned. FIFA is assessing the next steps with regard to the tournament and will refer the matter to the Bureau of the Council if and when necessary," it said.

The court had appointed a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA), headed by former apex court judge AR Dave, to manage the affairs of the national federation.

The CoA, which has former Chief Commissioner of India SY Quraishi and former India captain Bhaskar Ganguly as other members, also had to frame its constitution in line with the National Sports Code and model guidelines.

The Bureau of the FIFA Council decided that upon lifting of the suspension, the AIFF constitution will have to be revised in accordance with the requirements of the FIFA and the AFC and to be approved by the AIFF general assembly without interference from any third party.

The FIFA, "concurrently", wants an "independent electoral committee to be elected by the AIFF general assembly to run the elections of a new executive committee". It also said the AIFF must "carry out the upcoming electoral process as per the statutory requirements and to hold its elections based on the pre-existing membership of the AIFF (i.e State associations only).

In the Supreme court, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta bench told a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and AS Bopanna that "important development" has taken place and FIFA has sent a letter suspending India which is in public domain and needs to be brought on record. The bench told Mehta that the matter is listed for Wednesday and it would try to take it up as a first matter.

China sanctions seven top Taiwanese officials

After 2nd US Congressional delegation's visit to Taipei

PTI ■ BEIJING

China on Tuesday announced sanctions on seven 'die-hard' pro-independence Taiwanese politicians and officials, including Taipei's representative to Washington, amid concerns over the increasing visits by foreign dignitaries to the self-ruled island claimed by Beijing.

The sanctions were announced by Beijing following trips to the island by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in early August and a US Congressional delegation led by Democratic Senator Ed Markey on Monday.

Also last week, Lithuanian Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications Agne Vauciukeviciute visited Taiwan. Lithuania is part of the European Union.

China has already imposed sanctions against Pelosi and Agne and held high-intensity military drills in Taiwan Strait, sparking fears of an armed conflict with Taiwan, which China claims as part of its mainland.

After Pelosi's visit, China is concerned that there will be a flurry of visits by top officials from the US and allied countries to the self-ruled island.

China announced sanctions against seven Taiwanese government officials and politicians, saying they pushed a pro-independence agenda for the breakaway island.

The Taiwan Affairs Office of the ruling Communist Party of China said on Tuesday that those sanctioned and their family members would not be allowed to enter mainland China, Hong Kong or Macau.



They will not be permitted to do business with the Chinese mainland. Their affiliated companies and financial sponsors would not be allowed to gain profits from the mainland, a spokesman of the office was quoted by state-run Xinhua news agency as saying.

The Taiwan Affairs Office would take other necessary measures and those sanctioned would be held accountable for life," the spokesman said.

For a period of time, a small number of Taiwan independence die-hards have tried their best to collude with external forces to carry out independence provocations, deliberately inciting cross-strait confrontation, and wantonly undermining the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait.

They performed extremely poorly during Pelosi's trip to Taiwan, China's Taiwan Affairs Office spokesperson said.

"The names of die-hard separatists announced on Tuesday are only a part of the list," the spokesperson said.

Among the seven people on the sanc-

tion list, six are members of the independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) of Taiwan.

They include Hsiao Bi-khim, Taipei's representative to the US and Ker Chien-ming, the DPP caucus head of the legislature.

Others included Wang Ting-yu, a legislator who sits on the foreign relations and defence committee, Wellington Koo, secretary general of the island's National Security Council, Tsai Chi-chang, vice-speaker of Taiwan's legislature, and Lin Fei-fan, deputy secretary general of the DPP.

The non-DPP member sanctioned is Chen Jiau-hua, New Power Party legislator and chairwoman, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

In December last, China announced sanctions against Taiwanese Premier Su Tseng-chang, Taiwan's legislature president You Si-kun and Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu.

The businesses related to them, as

well as their sponsors, are prohibited from engaging in profit-making activities on the mainland. Other punitive measures will also be taken. They will be held to lifelong accountability according to law, the spokesperson said.

Sanctions are also imposed on the president of the "Taiwan Foundation for Democracy," and the secretary general of the "International Cooperation and Development Fund."

On Monday, China resorted to more high-intensity military drills around Taiwan to "safeguard national sovereignty" as Taiwan's president met with members of a new US congressional delegation visiting the self-ruled island claimed by Beijing, challenging its 'one China' policy.

The US Congressional delegation led by Massachusetts Democratic Senator Markey arrived in Taipei on an unannounced two-day visit on Sunday, close on the heels of Pelosi's visit on August 2, the highest-level visit by US official in 25 years, which riled Beijing.

Feds oppose unsealing affidavit for Trump's Mar-a-Lago warrant

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US Justice Department on Monday rebuffed efforts to make public the affidavit supporting the search warrant for former President Donald Trump's estate in Florida, saying the investigation "implicates highly classified material" and the document contains sensitive information about witnesses.

The government's opposition came in response to court filings by several news organisations, including The Associated Press, seeking to unseal the underlying affidavit the Justice Department submitted when it asked for the warrant to search Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate earlier this month.

Trump, in a Truth Social post early on Tuesday called for the release of the un-redacted affidavit in the interest of transparency.

The court filing — from Juan Antonio Gonzalez, the US attorney in Miami, and Jay Bratt, a top Justice Department national security official — argues that making the affidavit public would "cause significant and irreparable damage to this ongoing criminal investigation."

The document, the prosecutors say, details "highly sensitive information about witnesses," including people who have been interviewed by the government, and contains confidential grand jury information.

The government told a federal magistrate judge that prosecutors believe some addition-



records, including the cover sheet for the warrant and the government's request to seal the documents, should now be made public.

A property receipt unsealed on Friday showed the FBI seized 11 sets of classified documents, with some not only marked top secret but also "sensitive compartmented information," a special category meant to protect the nation's most important secrets that if revealed publicly could cause "exceptionally grave" damage to US interests.

The court records did not provide specific details about information the documents might contain.

The Justice Department acknowledged on Monday that its ongoing criminal investigation "implicates highly classified material."

The search warrant, also unsealed on Friday, said federal agents were investigating potential violations of three different federal laws, including one that governs gathering, transmitting or losing defence information under the Espionage

Act.

The other statutes address the concealment, mutilation or removal of records and the destruction, alteration or falsification of records in federal investigations.

The Mar-a-Lago search warrant, carried out last on Monday, was part of an ongoing Justice Department investigation into the discovery of classified White House records recovered from Trump's home earlier this year.

The National Archives had asked the department to investigate after saying 15 boxes of records it retrieved from the estate included classified records.

It remains unclear whether the Justice Department moved forward with the warrant simply as a means to retrieve the records or as part of a wider criminal investigation or an attempt to prosecute the former president.

Multiple federal laws govern the handling of classified information, with both criminal and civil penalties, as well as presidential records.

China's envoy plays down row over Chinese research ship docking in Lanka



PTI ■ COLOMBO

China's envoy in Sri Lanka on Tuesday played down the controversy surrounding the arrival of a high-tech Chinese research ship at the southern port of Hambantota, calling such visits "very natural".

Chinese ballistic missile and satellite tracking ship 'Yuan Wang 5' arrived in the southern port of Hambantota at 8.20 am local time. It will be docked there till August 22.

The ship was originally scheduled to arrive at the port on August 11 but it was delayed in absence of permission by the Sri Lankan authorities.

Sri Lanka had asked China to defer the visit amid India's concerns over it. On Saturday, Colombo granted the port access to the vessel from August 16 to 22.

Sri Lanka said the security clearance was granted from the Ministry of Defence for the visit of the vessel for replenishment purposes during the stipulated period.

Qi Zhenzhong, China's Ambassador to Sri Lanka, was present at the port to welcome the ship.

Several parliamentarians from the breakaway group of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna party were also present.

"This kind of research ship visiting Sri Lanka is very natural. In 2014 a similar ship came here," Zhenzhong told reporters when asked about the visit.

Asked about the Indian concerns, the Ambassador said "I don't know, you should ask the Indian friends".

The ship maintained a very strict security operation with no one being allowed on board.

The Sri Lankan decision to postpone the visit caused much

controversy in the country as the visit had been cleared in mid-July.

Commenting on the ship's arrival, the Cabinet spokesman Bandula Gunawardena said the issue was settled amicably. "Relations with all countries are important to us," Gunawardena said.

The security and cooperation in the neighborhood are of utmost priority in handling the issue of the Chinese vessel Wang Yang 5, the Foreign Ministry here said in a statement.

India has traditionally taken a stern view of Chinese military vessels in the Indian Ocean and has protested such visits with Sri Lanka in the past. The ties between India and Sri Lanka had come under strain after Colombo permitted a Chinese nuclear-powered submarine to dock in one of its ports in 2014.

China is the main creditor of Sri Lanka with investment in infrastructure. Debt restructuring of Chinese loans would be key to the island's success in the ongoing talks with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout.

India on the other hand has been Sri Lanka's lifeline in the ongoing economic crisis.

India has been at the forefront of extending economic assistance of nearly USD 4 billion to Sri Lanka during the year as the island nation is grappling with the worst economic crisis since independence in 1948.

India's concerns have been focused on Hambantota port in particular. In 2017, Colombo leased the southern port to China Merchant Port Holdings for 99 years, after Sri Lanka was unable to keep its loan repayment commitments, fanning fears over the potential use of the port for military purposes.

Biden to sign massive climate, health care legislation

AP ■ KIAWAH ISLANDS (US)

President Joe Biden will sign Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill on Tuesday, delivering what he has called the "final piece" of his pared-down domestic agenda, as he aims to boost his party's standing with voters less than three months before midterm elections.

The legislation includes the most substantial federal investment in history to fight climate change — some \$375 billion over the decade — and would cap prescription drug costs at \$2,000 out-of-pocket annually for Medicare recipients. It also would help an estimated 13 million Americans pay for health care insurance by extending subsidies provided during the coronavirus pandemic.

The measure is paid for by new taxes on large companies and stepped-up IRS enforcement of wealthy individuals and entities, with additional funds going to reduce the federal deficit.

The House on Friday approved the measure on a party-line 220-207 vote. It passed the Senate days earlier with

Vice President Kamala Harris breaking a 50-50 tie in that chamber.

Biden is set to sign the bill during a small ceremony in the State Dining Room of the White House, sandwiched between his return from a six-day beachside vacation in South Carolina and his departure for his home in Wilmington, Delaware. He plans to hold a larger "celebration" for the legislation on Sept. 6 once lawmakers return to Washington.

The signing caps a spurt of legislative productivity for Biden and Congress, who in three months have approved legislation on veterans' benefits, the semiconductor industry and gun checks for young buyers. The president and lawmakers have also responded to Ukraine's invasion by Russia and supported NATO membership for Sweden and Finland.

With Biden's approval rating lagging, Democrats are hoping that the string of successes will jump-start their chances of maintaining control in Washington in the November midterms. The 79-year-old president aims to restore his own standing with voters as he contemplates a reelection



bid. The White House announced Monday that it was going to deploy Biden and members of his Cabinet on a "Building a Better America Tour" to promote the recent victories, though the administration has yet to announce specific travel by the president.

"In the coming weeks, the President will host a Cabinet meeting focused on implementing the Inflation Reduction

Act, will travel across the country to highlight how the bill will help the American people, and will host an event to celebrate the enactment of the bill at the White House on September 6th," the White House said in a statement.

Republicans say the legislation's new business taxes will increase prices, worsening the nation's bout with its highest inflation since 1981. Though Democrats have labeled the measure

the Inflation Reduction Act, nonpartisan analysts say it will have a barely perceptible impact on prices.

The measure is a slimmed-down version of the more ambitious plan to supercharge environment and social programs that Biden and his party unveiled early last year.

Biden's initial 10-year, \$3.5 trillion proposal also envisioned free prekindergarten, paid family and medical leave, expanded Medicare benefits and eased immigration restrictions. That crashed after centrist Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said it was too costly, using the leverage every Democrat has in the evenly divided Senate.

Still, Biden and Democrats are hailing the legislation as a once-in-a-generation investment in addressing the long-term effects of climate change, as well as drought in the nation's West.

The bill will direct spending, tax credits and loans to bolster technology like solar panels, consumer efforts to improve home energy efficiency, emission-reducing equipment for coal- and gas-powered power plants, and air pollution controls for farms, ports and low-income communities.

Iran submits a 'written response' in N-deal talks



AP ■ DUBAI

Iran said Tuesday it submitted a "written response" to what has been described as a final roadmap to restore its tattered nuclear deal with world powers.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency offered no details on the substance of its response, but suggested that Tehran still wouldn't take the European Union-mediated proposal, despite warnings there would be no more negotiations.

"The differences are on three issues, in which the United States has expressed its verbal flexibility in two cases, but it should be included in the text," the IRNA report said. "The third issue is related to guaranteeing the continuation of (the deal), which depends on the realism of the United States."

Tehran under hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi has repeatedly tried to blame Washington for the delay in reaching an accord. Monday was

reported to have been a deadline for Iran's response.

There was no immediate acknowledgment from the EU that Iran submitted its response. The EU has been the go-between in the indirect talks.

From Washington, State Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. would share its own response to the EU.

"We do agree, however, with (the EU's) fundamental point, and that is that what could be negotiated has been negotiated," Price said. He added that Iran had been making "unacceptable demands" going beyond the text of the 2015 nuclear deal, which saw Iran drastically limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

"If Iran wants these sanctions lifted, they will need to alter their underlying conduct," Price said. "They will need to change the dangerous activities that gave rise to these sanctions in the first place."

6 killed in fire at restaurant in Dhaka

PTI ■ DHAKA

At least six persons — all staff of a restaurant — were killed when a fire broke out at a restaurant and spread to a plastic factory in the four-storey building here in Bangladesh, officials said on Tuesday.

The firefighters on Monday recovered six bodies from the gutted building that housed a plastic factory and a restaurant in Old Dhaka's Chawkbazar area, BDNews 24 quoted Shahjahan Sikder, assistant director of the fire service, as saying.

The workers were sleeping on the first floor after finishing their night duty when the fire broke out around 12 pm in the restaurant area and later spread to the plastic factory in the building, Bazrul Rashid, deputy assistant director of the Fire Service, said.

"We found six bodies inside the building," said Anwarul Islam, a fire service official.

According to a Daily Star Bangladesh report, all those who died in the incident on Monday were staff members of Barisal Hotel and Restaurant that occupied the ground floor of the building.

Top Malaysian court orders ex-PM Najib to begin final appeal

AP ■ PUTRAJAYA

Malaysia's top court ordered former Prime Minister Najib Razak on Tuesday to begin his final appeal in two days after rejecting his request that it throw out his graft conviction and 12-year sentence over alleged judicial bias.

Najib has sought to introduce new evidence that would spark a retrial on grounds that the high court judge who convicted him may be biased due to his previous job at a bank that provided financial services to the 1Malaysia Development Berhad state fund.

IMDB was a development fund Najib set up shortly after taking power in 2009. Investigators allege at least USD 4.5 billion was stolen from the fund and laundered by Najib's associates. Najib was found guilty of abuse of power, criminal breach of trust and money laundering for illegally receiving USD 9.4 million from SRC International, a former unit of IMDB.

The five-member Federal Court bench unanimously dismissed Najib's request, agreeing with prosecutors that the background of then-High Court Judge Mohamad Nazlan Mohamad Ghazali was public knowledge. Nazlan is now a



judge in the Court of Appeals. Chief Justice Maimun Tuan Mat said the court couldn't find any link between Nazlan's previous role at the bank and the charges against Najib that could lead to a real danger of bias.

She also said some of the proposed additional evidence the defense is seeking was already available during trial and in any case is irrelevant to the charges.

"We are not convinced that Justice Nazlan made his findings based on anything other than the evidence on record," she said.

"To our mind, there is no miscarriage of justice" since Najib can include the allegation in his final appeal to the top court, she added.

Najib said after the hearing that he was "shocked and bitterly disappointed."

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

FOOTBALL'S TOP GOVERNING BODY BANS INDIA FOR THIRD PARTY INFLUENCE; WOMEN'S U17 WORLD CUP NOT TO BE HELD IN INDIA



FIFA BANS INDIA

In a massive setback for the country, world football governing body FIFA on Tuesday suspended India for "undue influence from third parties" and said the U-17 Women's World Cup "cannot currently be held in India as planned."

The country is scheduled to host the FIFA tournament from October 11-30.

This is the first time the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been banned by FIFA in its 85-year history, with the apex body saying there have been "flagrant violations of the FIFA Statutes."

"The Bureau of the FIFA Council has unanimously decided to suspend the All India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes," the FIFA said in a statement.

The Bureau of the FIFA Council said the lifting of the suspension will be subject to repealing of the Committee of Administrators' (CoA) mandate in full. In a statement, FIFA also said it wants the AIFF administration to "be fully in charge of the AIFF's daily affairs."

"The suspension will be lifted once an order to set up a committee of administrators to assume the powers of the AIFF Executive Committee has been repealed and the AIFF administration regains full control of the AIFF's daily affairs."

"The suspension means that the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022, scheduled to take place in India on 11-30 October 2022, cannot currently be held in India as planned. FIFA is assessing the next steps with regard to the tournament and will refer the matter to the Bureau of the Council if and when necessary."

In the wake of the latest development, the Centre sought an urgent hearing in the Supreme Court on the AIFF matter.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and A S Bopanna was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, that "important development" has taken place and FIFA has sent a letter suspending India which is in public

domain and needs to be brought on record.

This was after a four-member FIFA delegation held a meeting with senior sports ministry officials and the CoA on Friday and Monday, respectively.

"Till last evening it seemed consensus has been reached between all the parties but last night FIFA just informed us that they will have to ban AIFF as per its internal committee decision," an official in the sports ministry said.

"FIFA is against CoA's interference but it is open to dialogue and wants the AIFF executive board to be in place at the earliest, and if that happens, they will lift the ban."

"The government is committed to solving the matter as soon as possible as it wants the U-17 Women's Junior World Cup to be hosted by India," he added.

A ban on India has been on the cards since the Supreme Court removed Praful Patel as AIFF president on May 18 for not holding elec-

tions, due in December 2020.

The court had appointed a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA), headed by former apex court judge AR Dave, to manage the affairs of the national federation.

The CoA, which has former Chief Commissioner of India SY Quraishi and ex India captain Bhaskar Ganguly as other members, also had to frame its constitution in line with the National Sports Code and model guidelines.

The Bureau of the FIFA Council decided that upon lifting of the suspension, the AIFF constitution will have to be revised in accordance with the requirements of the FIFA and the AFC and to be approved by the AIFF general assembly without interference from any third party.

The FIFA, "concurrently", wants an "independent electoral committee to be elected by the AIFF general assembly to run the elections of a new executive committee".

It also said the AIFF must "carry

out the upcoming electoral process as per the statutory requirements and to hold its elections based on the pre-existing membership of the AIFF (i.e. state associations only).

As per the FIFA move and with the AIFF losing all membership rights until further notice, the Indian clubs and representatives (players, referees, officials) are no longer entitled to take part in international suspension until the suspension is lifted.

"This also means neither the

AIFF nor any of its members or officials benefit from any development programmes, courses or training from FIFA and/or the AFC," the world body said in its detailed statement.

The FIFA has never allowed third party interference in the affairs of its member units whether by the court or the government. It has set up normalisation committees in various countries in cases similar to India.

FIFA, though, has kept a window open for India, saying it is in touch with the sports ministry on the issue.

"FIFA is in constant constructive contact with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in India and is hopeful that a positive outcome to the case may still be achieved," it said.

Following the ban, the fate of the AIFF elections, to be held on August 28 on the orders of the Supreme is not yet known.

The poll process began on August 13 as the top court approved the time-line prepared by the Committee of Administrators (CoA).

The CoA has already appointed a returning officers and has published the electoral college for the elections, including 36 eminent players in the list. The filing of nominations is to start from Wednesday till Friday.

India's football fraternity is hoping that a last-minute solution will salvage the FIFA under-17 women's world cup when the Supreme Court hears the matter on Wednesday.

The sports ministry had filed an application in the Supreme Court, seeking a modification to its August 5 order that allowed 36 eminent players to vote in the AIFF elections on the grounds that the world body was not in favour of 'individual membership' in the AIFF.

According to sources, FIFA reiterated its stand to the sports ministry on Monday and issued the statement to ban India after that (around 10pm Swiss local time; wee hours on Tuesday in India).

The Supreme Court on August 3 directed the executive committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to expeditiously hold elections as per the schedule proposed by the CoA.

Murray downs Wawrinka in Cincinnati

AP ■ CINCINNATI

Andy Murray won his first hard-court match of the summer on Monday, defeating Stan Wawrinka 7-6 (7/3), 5-7, 7-5 in the opening round of the ATP/WTA Cincinnati Masters.

The 35-year-old Scot was facing his 37-year-old Swiss rival for the 22nd time with both treble Grand Slam champions still coming back to full form after long-term injuries over the past few seasons.

Murray lost in the first round at Washington and last week in Montreal while Wawrinka's last win came on grass two months ago at Queen's Club, London; he has not won on cement since the Australian Open last year.

Murray needed four match points to advance at a tournament he has won twice, in 2008 and 2011.

The veteran was competing here for the 17th time.

Compatriot Cameron Norrie joined Murray in the second round with his 7-6 (7/5), 4-6, 6-4 defeat of Dane Holger Rune.



Other winners on opening day included 2016 champion Marin Cilic, who defeated Spain's Jaume Munar 6-3, 6-3, and American John Isner, the 2013 finalist against Rafael Nadal, who advanced past France's

Benjamin Bonzi 7-6 (13/11), 3-6, 7-6 (7/4).

In the WTA draw, Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina defeated Egyptian Mayar Sherif 6-3, 6-2. The world number 25 set up a

second-round clash with eighth seed Garbine Muguruza, title-winner here in 2017.

American Amanda Anisimova beat ninth seed Daria Kasatkina 6-4, 6-4.

'FITNESS KEY'

Andy Murray said match fitness will be the key to the remainder of his season after reaching the second round of the ATP/WTA Cincinnati Masters.

After half a decade of injury problems including a pair of hip surgeries, the Scot knows the remainder of his season, and career, will depend on his physical state.

"Physically I felt pretty good for the last few months, but in a lot of the tournaments I've lost in the second round," he said.

"I've not had that opportunity to have a really good tournament and then maybe take a break and rest."

"I hope I can get to that level again where I'm consistently getting to the latter stages of events, and therefore, we will be able to plan and schedule my tournaments better."

Kyrgios 'unavailable' for Aus at Davis Cup

AP ■ SYDNEY

Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios will skip the Davis Cup next month, Tennis Australia said on Tuesday, scotching speculation about his return to the team competition.

The 27-year-old has not appeared at the Davis Cup since 2019 but would have been an obvious choice given his strong run of form since his Wimbledon final appearance in July.

Kyrgios, ranked 28 in the world, won the Washington Open earlier this month and reached the quarter-finals of the Canadian Open.

"It would have been great to have Nick in the team but unfortunately he was unavailable for this tie," Australia's Davis Cup captain Lleyton Hewitt said in a statement.

The team will be led by Alex de Minaur and Thanasi Kokkinakis and also include Wimbledon men's doubles champions Matt Ebden and Max Purcell.

Australia will compete in Hamburg on September 13-18 in Pool C alongside Germany, France and Belgium in the group stage.

Morata returns with brace

AP ■ MADRID

Alvaro Morata struck twice to secure Atletico Madrid a 3-0 victory at Getafe in their opening game of the La Liga season on Monday.

Morata, who has returned to Atletico after two years on loan with Juventus, scored a goal in each half before Antoine Griezmann wrapped up the points.

Joao Felix played a key role by setting up all three goals, the first of which Morata swept home from the edge of the box on 15 minutes.

Borja Mayoral grazed the crossbar for Getafe late in the first half, but Morata eased Atletico nerves with a clinical finish on the hour following an error by Stefan Mitrovic.

Felix then threaded the ball through for Griezmann, who cut inside and drove low into the corner to ensure Atletico made a winning start following the departure of Luis Suarez.



The Uruguayan rejoined his boyhood club Nacional on a short-term deal in July after his contract expired at Atletico. Athletic Bilbao drew 0-0 at home to Mallorca, while Real Betis host Elche later on Monday to round out the opening round of fixtures in Spain.

Vlahovic's double sinks Sassuolo

AP ■ TURIN



Dusan Vlahovic fired Juventus to a comfortable 3-0 win over Sassuolo with a brace in Monday's Serie A opener while Victor Osimhen was racially abused by Verona fans in a thumping 5-2 win for Napoli.

Serbia forward Vlahovic put Juve two ahead just before the break from the penalty spot after being fouled by Gian Marco Ferrari, and ended the match as a contest following a smart Angel Di Maria pass six minutes after the restart.

Di Maria had set Juve on the road for a low-key win with his first Serie A goal, a miscued volley in the 26th minute of his debut after arriving as a free agent this summer.

Massimiliano Allegri's side were missing returning hero Paul Pogba, out with a knee

injury until next month, and injured starting goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny.

However Allegri gave Filip Kostic his Juve debut off the bench, a new face who along with the excellent Di Maria could rejuvenate a sluggish team who came up against the weakest of resistance at the Allianz Stadium.

Osimhen was among the scorers for Napoli who before kick-off honoured their former goalkeeper Claudio Garella, a Serie A title winner in the 1980s with both southern Italy's biggest club and Verona.

A reporter at the game heard a section of the home support launch monkey chants at the Nigeria forward midway through the first half, before he stretched to jab home Giovanni Di Lorenzo's knockdown in stoppage time to put the away side 2-1 ahead at half-time.

Denker, Arnold Sheldon - Botvinnik, Mikhail

This month, in our series 'Champion born this month', I would like to present a game by the most remarkable World Chess Champion — someone who always showed courage to experiment, someone who was the pioneer of artificial intelligence and someone who is considered to be the greatest Chess visionary who influenced the Chess world most. Surely the reader has guessed that I am speaking about five times world Chess champion Mikhail Botvinnik of USSR.

Mikhail Moiseyevich Botvinnik (17th August, 1911 - 5th May 1995) was born at Kuokkala, (now in Repino district, Saint Petersburg) to a Jewish dentist couple. Though it was the most trying time for the Jewish community then, Botvinnik always found a way to survive and excel due to his intelligence, adaptability and wisdom. Botvinnik turned an atheist very young and always described himself as 'a Jew by blood, a Russian by culture and a Soviet by upbringing'.

At the tender age of 20, Botvinnik won the Soviet Chess Championship, thereby getting opportunity to participate in important Chess tournaments in Western Europe. His victories over former World Champions Capablanca and Alekhine — two masterpieces displaying exactly opposite playing styles — reveal the depth of Botvinnik's mastery over Chess strategy, tactics and technique at a young age. When World Champion Alexander Alekhine passed away in 1946, leaving the Chess throne empty, the International Chess Federation FIDE conducted the 'World Championship Tournament' at Groningen (1946) in which Botvinnik emerged the winner, to be crowned as



the World Champion for the first time. Botvinnik always believed in propagating and promoting the game on all fronts at the same time and was the main force behind the government support and the broad player base in Soviet Union. He wrote several Chess books and composed some very illustrative Chess puzzles. Botvinnik's greatest contribution to Chess is his study of artificial intelligence and computer science. Even when he was the World Champion, Botvinnik dedicated a lot of time in designing and making Chess playing computers. Even at the risk of becoming ridiculed by fellow Chess masters, Botvinnik always expressed that computers would eventually defeat humans some day. His words have indeed come true, though, sadly, it was not to happen during his lifetime.

After retiring from active participation in world championship cycles,

Botvinnik started training talented youngsters from Soviet Union. World Champions Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik are the most prominent among his students. Botvinnik promptly acknowledged the contribution of others to his own work as well as to Chess theory. He attributed his concept of 'acclimatisation', practiced by all Soviet sportspersons for decades, to invaluable inputs and suggestions by World Chess Champion Dr Emanuel Lasker. Due to his innovativeness, objectivity and clarity of thoughts, Botvinnik was always able to lead the Chess world in new directions and dimensions till the last day of his life. The Chess world will always miss this legendary personality.

Today let me take you through a game played by Botvinnik in the system named after him and annotated by none other than his most successful pupil, Garry Kasparov. 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5

This sharp continuation, defending the 'c4' Pawn at the cost of allowing White to attack the pinned Black Knight with a Pawn, is now known as the Botvinnik variation of the Slav Defence. 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5! hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.exf6

White has recovered the sacrificed piece and seems to be in an advantageous position. However, Botvinnik soon demonstrated that this is only an illusion and Black has enough dynamic resources to create adequate counterplay. 11...Bb7 12.Be2?

12.g3! must go without thinking - writes my hand 51 years later." — Garry Kasparov in 1996.

12...Qb6 13.0-0-0-0 "Both kings are castled; however, the White monarch will soon feel quite uncomfortable, especially after the imminent c6-c5." — Garry Kasparov. 14.a4!?

"Looks natural, but while trying to open the opponent's Kingside White soon finds himself well behind in the creation of any real threats." — Garry Kasparov.

14.Bf3 protecting the crucial diagonal, could have partially repaired the damage done by the 12th move, although a bishop on g2 with the pawn on g3 is a much more healthy construction for the castled King. For example, 14...Ne5! leads to a double-edged position after the queen sacrifice: 15.dxe5 Rxd1 16.Rfxd1 "Garry Kasparov.

In one training game Ragozin, Botvinnik's long-time coach and sparring partner, played the optimistic 14.h4 and after 14...Bh6! 15.a4 Bxg5 16.hxg5 b4 17.Ne4 c5 White didn't survive for long in this open position." — Garry Kasparov.

"Too far from the action. 16.Qc2 wouldn't have changed much after 16...b3! 17.Qb1 Qc7 etc. Another proposition 16.Qc2,c3!? 17.bxc3 Qc7 looks extremely exciting, e.g. 18.f4 cxd4 19.c4 d3! 20.Bxd3 Nc5 21.Nxc5 Bxc5+ 22.Kh1 Rdg8 (threatening 23...Rxg5) 23.Bh7 (what else?) 23...b3! 24.Qb1, Qc6! 25.Rf3 Qxf3! and the crazed elephants (Chess Bishops are called elephants in Russian - Pravin Thipsay) will trample all over White's king. Remember 26.gxf3 Bxf3# is mate!" Garry Kasparov.

The only reasonable alternative was 16.Nd2! with hopes of staying in the game after 16...c3 17.bxc3 bxc3 18.Nc4 Qc7 19.h4 etc.

16...Qc7! "As you have probably noticed, Black has gained a valuable tempo for manoeuvring his queen, because the square h2 is also vulnerable from the diagonal h2-b8.

17.Ng3? "The final mistake. This knight had to stay on e4.

The alternative 17.h4 wouldn't stop Black's attack after 17...Bh6! ; 17.g3! was relatively the best and could have prevented immediate disaster." — Garry Kasparov.

17...cxd4 18.Bxc4! Qc6! "But not 18...Qxc4?? due to 19.Rc1. 19.f3 d3!"

"In amazing harmony Black's pieces are using all open lines and diagonals to satisfy their 'basic instincts': to get at the White king!" — Kasparov. Black opens up the 'g1-a7' diagonal for his King Bishop.

20.Qc1 "Bad is 20.Ne4? Qc7! 21.g3 Bxe4! 22.fxe4 Qxc4 23.Rc1 Bc5+ 24.Kf1 Qxe4 with a rapid mate. Or if 20.Be3 then 20...Be5 21.Qe1 Ne5 22.Bb3 Ng4! and White wins.

20...Bc5+ 21.Kh1 Qd6! 22.Qf4 "This allowed Black to win with a pretty combination but there was no defence anyway

22...Rhx2+! 23.Kxh2 Rh8+ 24.Qh4 24.Nh5 fails to 24...Rhx5+ 25.Kg3 Rg5+!

24...Rhx4+ 25.Bxh4 Qf4! White resigned. 0-1

Pravin Thipsay, Arjuna Awardee and International Chess Grandmaster.

Dhawan always ready to help youngsters

PTI ■ HARARE

He might have been relegated to vice-captaincy after KL Rahul's late inclusion but team's senior-most player is always ready to lend a helping hand to the youngsters who seek out for him.

Dhawan was all set to lead the team in a three-match ODI series here but now that he will be performing the duties of a deputy, he is ready to put his best foot forward.

"I quite enjoy sharing my experience with the youngsters in the team. I first came here in 2014 (actually 2013), when Duncan Fletcher was the Indian coach. If they (youngsters) reach out to me for any suggestions, I am (always) there to answer them," Dhawan told reporters at a media conference here.

The 36-year-old southpaw is rather happy that skipper Rahul will get the much-needed game time ahead of the all-important Asia Cup.

"It is a very good news that KL (Rahul) is back and will be leading the side as well. He is one of the main players of this Indian team. It will be a good outing for him before the Asia Cup gets underway. I am sure he will gain a lot from this tour," Dhawan said.

All-rounder Washington Sundar who was a sure-shot starter against Zimbabwe was ruled out after he injured his left shoulder in the Royal London One Day Cup.

The 22-year-old Chennai lad last donned the Indian colours during the West Indies series in February 2021.

"It's sad that Washington is out. He is quite an important player for the side. But it's part and parcel...injuries happen. Hope, he will recover soon. He will be missed him as a spinner but we have got a good back-up through Kuldeep Yadav and Deepak Hooda, who also bowls off-spin," the Indian vice captain said.

While India is back in the southern African nation for the first time since 2016 and haven't played much against them in the last few years, Dhawan was of the opinion that should not take Zimbabwe, especially after their recent series win against Bangladesh.

"They have won against Bangladesh. They are playing good cricket. It's good for us and we cannot take anything for granted. It's about the process.

"Regardless of the team we are facing, we always make sure we do things right so that we end up getting the right results. That will once again be our focus



Shabbaz Ahmed gets maiden India call-up

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All-rounder Shabbaz Ahmed on Tuesday received his maiden India call-up as he replaced an injured Washington Sundar for the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe starting this week.

The 27-year-old Shabbaz has been rewarded for his stellar performance in the 2022 IPL season,

as a team," Dhawan said.

Dhawan praised senior Zimbabwe batter Sikandar Raza and said that the Indian bowlers will have to bowl smart against the latter to contain him in the right time.

where he turned out for Royal Challengers Bangalore.

The Bengal left-arm spinner collected 219 runs and four wickets in 16 matches, leaving a mark.

The Southpaw has a batting average of 41.64 and a bowling average of 19.47 from 18 first class games.

"The All-India Senior Selection Committee named Shabbaz Ahmed

as the replacement for Washington Sundar for the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe," the BCCI said in a statement.

Washington had injured his shoulder while playing a County game in England, ruling him out of the Zimbabwe tour.

India are scheduled to play three ODIs starting in Harare on Thursday.

"He is a very good player. He has been playing for Zimbabwe for a long time. He is a quality player. I am sure our bowlers with come up with nice plans against him," he said.

Dhawan went on to add that the series against Zimbabwe will be

crucial for a number of youngsters in the squad like Shubman Gill, Avesh Khan, Ishan Kishan, and the exposure they are getting will be extremely beneficial to them in the coming days.

"The youngsters, these days,

New Zealand A to tour India in August & Sept, Oz likely in Nov

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The India 'A' side is set to get its first assignment in over eight months with New Zealand and, in all likelihood, Australia touring the country.

The India A program will be "helmed by VVS Laxman and his NCA support staff group of Sairaj Bahutule and Sitanshu Kotak," according to a report in ESPNcricinfo.

India A was previously in action in November-December last year, when it played three unofficial Tests in Bloemfontein, South Africa.

The New Zealand 'A' side is slated to arrive in India by the end of this month. It will play three four-day games and as many List A matches with all fixtures expected to be held in Bengaluru.

A pink-ball fixture is also being mulled upon by the BCCI, but final approval is pending.

Even in their previous tour in 2017-18, the New Zealand 'A' side had played a pink-ball match at Vijayawada, although it was a day game.

The tour of New Zealand is likely to coincide with the Duleep Trophy, scheduled from September 8 to 25. The BCCI is also in talks with Cricket Australia for a possible tour.

"The BCCI is also understood to be in negotiations with Cricket Australia for a tour towards the end of the year - most likely in November - prior to the start of the Ranji Trophy and India's next Test assignment, which will be in Bangladesh," the report said.

have got more exposure. They are confident and they have got good technique. Their confidence level is quite high because of domestic and IPL. We feel that we have got so many options. It is a healthy sign for the team," Dhawan said.



India Women's to play 2 Tests in next 3 years

Women's in Blue to play 2 Tests, 27 ODIs and 36 T20Is in FTP 2022-2025

PTI ■ DUBAI

The Indian women's team will play as many as 65 international games in the inaugural Future Tours & Programmes (FTP) set by the ICC during the three-year-cycle between May, 2022 to April, 2025.

The ICC on Tuesday announced the structured calendar that includes a total of 301 matches (seven Tests, 135 ODIs and 159 T20Is) over a period of three years.

India's share of matches will be two Tests against England and Australia along with 27 ODIs and 36 T20 Internationals during the said duration.

Since the FTP has started from May, 2022, India have already played 3 WODIs and 3 WT20Is against Sri Lanka.

As per the list, India hosts New Zealand, South Africa, West Indies and Ireland at home, the away series are against Australia, England, Sri Lanka (already played) and Bangladesh.

One of the marquee events in this phase will be India's five-match T20I series against the 'Southern Stars' later this year.

While the Australians will be visiting India once again during the summer of 2023-24

for a multi-format series (one Test, three ODIs, and three T20Is), the Indians will return the favour when they tour Down Under in the winter of 2025-26 (one Test, three ODIs, and three T20Is).

Of the seven Tests inked during the phase, England will play the most Tests - five, followed by Australia (four), South Africa (three) and India (two).

"This is a huge moment for the women's game," ICC general manager of cricket, Wasim Khan, said in a statement.

"This FTP not only lends certainty to future cricket tours but also sets the base for a structure that is sure to grow in the coming years," Khan added.

According to ICC, the 2022-25 Women's Championship, teams will generally play three-match bilateral ODI series before the 2025 World Cup.

Many of these series will also be accompanied by T20 international matches, with some teams also giving its consent for five-match WT20I series.

"All bilateral T20I matches count towards respective team rankings, which in turn serves as a primary mechanism for determining the teams that qualify for ICC global events," ICC said in its statement.

Praggnanandhaa beats Firouzja in FTX Crypto Cup chess

PTI ■ MIAMI

Teenage Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa on Tuesday opened his campaign in the FTX Crypto Cup, the American finale of Champions Chess Tour, with a 2.5-1.5 win over the world's top junior player Alireza Firouzja.

The 17-year-old, who was part of the Bronze medal-winning India 'B' team at the recent chess Olympiad in Mamallapuram near Chennai, opened with a win in the first of the four-game match.

He lost the second game before winning the third and drawing the fourth to beat Firouzja in the first round match on Tuesday.

The Indian GM picked up three points for beating the highly-rated Firouzja and faces Dutch No.1 Anish Giri in the second round.

Meanwhile, world No.1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway stormed to a 3-1 win over Giri.

In other matches in the first round, Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda beat Hans Niemann 3-0 while Lev Aronian defeated China's Le Liem 2.5-1.5.

The eight-player all-play-all tournament is the American finale of Champions Chess Tour. There is \$7,500 at stake for each match win at the event.

Ireland great Kevin O'Brien bids goodbye to int'l cricket



AP ■ DUBLIN

Ireland all-rounder Kevin O'Brien on Tuesday announced his retirement from international cricket after falling out of contention for this year's T20 World Cup in Australia.

O'Brien played three Tests, 153 ODIs and 110 T20Is during a 16-year international career and had spells with a number of English county clubs and T20 franchise sides around the world.

The 38-year-old famously blasted the Irish to victory over England in a 2011 World Cup group match in India with a 50-ball century — still the tournament's quickest.

The Dubliner scored 9,048 runs in total for Ireland, including the country's first Test

hundred, a second-innings knock of 118 against Pakistan in 2018, and took 276 wickets.

In a statement on Twitter, O'Brien, who for many years played alongside older brother Niall, said: "Today I announce my retirement from international cricket after 16 years and 389 caps for my country."

"I had hoped to finish my career at the T20 World Cup in Australia, but having not been picked for the Irish squad since last year's World Cup, I feel the selectors and management are looking elsewhere.

"I have enjoyed every minute playing for Ireland, have made many friends off the pitch and I have so many happy memories to remember from my time playing for the national side." Ireland captain Andrew Balbirnie said he was "lucky" to

Ex-BCCI secretary Amitabh no more

RANCHI: Amitabh Chaudhary, the former BCCI secretary and president of Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) died of heart attack on Tuesday morning. He was 62. An IIT Kharagpur alumnus, Chaudhary was instrumental in getting the first-class status for Jharkhand after BCCI disbanded the Bihar Cricket Association during the late Jagmohan Dalmyia's tenure in the early part of the new millennium.

Chaudhary also played a major role in building one of the finest cricket stadiums in Ranchi and should be considered instrumental in bringing international cricket and IPL to the industrial town.

He had also served as a BCCI joint secretary and was an administrative manager with the Indian team on a few occasions.

PTI have played with O'Brien. "Cricket in this country owes a lot to what Kev achieved on and off the field and he has left the game in a better place," he said.

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup to return after two years in Nov



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, an annual invitational international men's hockey tournament, is set to make a comeback after a two-year break in November this year.

The prestigious tournament didn't take place in the last two years due to COVID-19. The last time it was held in 2019, South Korea had emerged champions by beating India in the summit clash.

"We are all set to host the Premier Azlan Shah Cup in November this year. We have invited six teams including India and Australia and we hope our invitation will be accepted," an AHF official said.

India has been invited alongside Australia, Germany and England for the tournament scheduled to be held from November 16 to 25 in Ipoh, Malaysia.

While Australia are the most successful team in the tournament with 10 titles, India have won it five times.

Suryakumar is a bit like ABD, No. 4 is his best spot: Ponting

PTI ■ DUBAI

Suryakumar Yadav has received high praise from the great Ricky Ponting, who compared the batter with AB de Villiers, saying the Indian possesses a 360 degree game like the South African genius.

Ponting suggested that Yadav should bat at number four in the Indian line-up.

"Surya (Yadav) scores 360 degrees around the ground, a bit like an AB de Villiers did when he was in his actual prime. The lap shots, the late cuts, you know, the ramps over the keeper's head. He can hit down the ground," Ponting said on the latest episode of The ICC Review.

"He hits really well over the leg side, flicks to deep backward square particularly well, and he's a good player of fast bowling and is a good player of spin bowling."

Yadav, 31, has scored 672 runs at an average of 37.33 and a strike rate of 175.45 in 23 T20 matches and now sits at No.2 in the ICC T20 Batter Ranking.

"He's a very, very exciting player and I'm sure someone that's going to find himself in their team, not just their squad," Ponting, who has seen Yadav up close in his early years at Mumbai Indians, said.

"I think you'd find him in their team for the T20 World



Cup. And if he's in that team, then I think all the fans in Australia are going to see a very, very good player.

"He's quite a confident person. He backs himself and he's never going to step down from a challenge or any situation that arises in a game. I feel he thinks he can win that situation and therefore go on and win the game for his team."

Asked whether Yadav would make India's best XI, the former Australian skipper said he has "played better than anybody else in the Indian team for the last couple of series" and should be slotted at the top order.

"It's got to be in the top four,

I think. I said stick with him (Virat Kohli) in his traditional spot, which has been number three," Ponting, a two-time World Cup-winning captain, said.

"For Surya, it's one, two or four. I think he can open, but I think he's probably, you know, if you could probably just keep him away from the new ball, let him control the middle part of the game outside the Powerplay, through in the middle, and if he's in at the end, you know what can happen."

Ponting said: "I think in the top four is, well, actually I'll go out on a limb: I don't want him to open. I think number four is his best spot."

South Africa keen to wreck England's 'Bazball' party

AP ■ LONDON

South Africa captain Dean Elgar says he does not fear "Bazball" as the Proteas seek to inflict England's first Test defeat of their swashbuckling new era under the leadership of Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum.

After a dismal run of just one victory in 17 Tests, England have won four from four under new skipper Stokes and coach McCullum heading into their series opener against South Africa at Lord's on Wednesday.

That includes a 3-0 series win over world champions New Zealand, with England hunting down challenging targets on each occasion.

Stokes's men then made light of a seemingly stiff target of 378 in the Covid-delayed fifth Test against India at Edgbaston, romping to victory by seven wickets.

"Bazball" -- a reference to



McCullum's nickname -- has revitalised England's red-ball fortunes at a time of renewed debate about the future of the five-day game.

But there are questions over whether the ultra-aggressive approach can work in all circumstances, particularly against a strong

South Africa pace attack. "I've got absolutely no interest in the style that they've played," Elgar told the Guardian. "I think it can go

Poms recall fit-again Foakes

AP ■ LONDON

England have recalled fit-again wicketkeeper Ben Foakes for the first Test against South Africa at Lord's starting on Wednesday.

Ben Stokes, the England captain, announced the return of Surrey wicketkeeper Foakes to the

XI during a media conference on Tuesday.

Foakes is the only change from the team that defeated India in the postponed fifth Test at Edgbaston last month after missing the match following a case of coronavirus. Foakes claims the gloves from Kent's Sam Billings.

one of two ways for them and it can go south very quickly... I'd like to see them do it against our seamers."

But England bowling great James Anderson, speaking at Lord's on Monday, is confident that sticking with a positive mindset will prove the right thing for the team.

"I don't think it has to come unstuck at all," he said. "We now know we've got the ability to chase

anything down and we've got the ability to take wickets in any conditions."

"If we keep playing with that entertaining sort of mindset and also be smart with it as well... there may be times when we can't go hell for leather with the bat and maybe we have to soak up a bit of pressure at times and just be smart about when we put pressure back on

the opposition.

Both teams appear to be stronger in bowling rather than batting although, with resilient opener Elgar leading from the front, the Proteas have won seven out of nine Tests under his captaincy, while the form of Keegan Petersen has helped compensate for the red-ball retirement of gifted shotmaker Quinton de Kock.

England will hope in-form batsmen Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow maintain their eye-catching form of earlier in the season.

South Africa spearhead bowler Kagiso Rabada is doubtful for the first game of the three-Test series with an ankle injury. "I'm hoping that he pulls through," said Proteas coach Mark Boucher. "Rabada is a massive player for us as we all know so for him to be part of the final XI would be very special for us."